

# William Shrewsbury Primary School

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## Newsletter No 1 October 2021



Dear Parents,

I am pleased to report that your children have settled back into relatively 'normal' school life very well indeed. They are so keen to learn and they are all putting their best efforts into their learning. Welcome to the parents of our new Nursery and Reception pupils, your children have also settled incredibly well and are learning so much, so quickly.

Although the children (with your help) did extremely well in their learning last year, we still have a little catching up to do so any help that you can give them for short bursts of time at home would be really helpful. Please see the box 'Learning and Growing Together' on page 2 for ideas on how you can support at home.

Another thing that we are working on is rebuilding children's resilience in dealing with things when they go wrong, both in friendships and in their learning. We want children to be prepared to 'have a go' in their learning and know that to learn something new, you sometimes need to make mistakes. Children who feel confident and happy are more likely to make more rapid progress in their learning. To support their emotional wellbeing, we have introduced 'zones of regulation' which teaches children how to manage their emotions effectively. To find out more about this please see page 4.

We are looking forward to seeing you - virtually again for this term - for our parents evenings later this month so that we can continue to work in partnership to support your child's development.

Elaine Curtis  
Headteacher



### Harvest Week

This year, to celebrate Harvest we will be inviting the children to come in non-uniform clothes on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October in the autumn colours of red, green, yellow, brown, orange etc. In return, we would like them to make a contribution of money, usually around £1. This year we will be sending our donations to the Burton YMCA who care for homeless people. They also run a foodbank for local people who may be struggling on a low income for a wide range of reasons. (Please see their website for further information). In addition, Miss Hayes and Miss Smith from 1B will be taking part in the Burton YMCA sleep out on 29<sup>th</sup> October.



## Learning and Growing Together

This year we will be continuing to look for ways to involve you in your child's learning.



### Some of the things you can do at home:

1. Make sure your child completes their homework and offer support and encouragement
2. Read with your child regularly. This includes listening to them read aloud and also reading books to them and sharing books together. Even the older children love listening to stories and if you choose one that is at slightly harder level than your child can read for themselves it will help develop their vocabulary and introduce them to new ideas and themes.
3. Encourage your child not to give up and to stay positive when things are hard. This applies to all areas of learning including sports and musical instruments. We call this developing resilience and it is a very important life skill.
4. Help your child to learn their times tables. These will speed up all areas of their Maths learning. There are lots of fun videos and songs online which the children enjoy watching.



### Gentle reminder about uniform

Please remember that jewellery is not permitted, apart from watches and **one pair only of plain stud** earrings. A few children are forgetting about this.

Hair bands should be plain (no big hair bows please) and it is our school policy not to permit extreme hairstyles and nail polish. Please help your child to adhere to this so that we can have pride in our school and personal appearance.



### Parent/Grandparent Helpers

Are you interested in helping out in school from time to time? We would really welcome more parent helpers in school and we particularly need more people to listen to children read. Please contact Miss Martin or Mrs Kirk via the school office if you can help.

## Road Safety

Since our return to school, we have also returned to safety concerns about congestion around school at the beginning of the day. This is of course exacerbated by the fact that we are on a main route to and from the A38. In the past, a number of factors have helped us to ease this.

### Breakfast Club

Breakfast club has returned to its original start time of 7.45am and children can attend for as many days of the week as required. The earlier time means less congestion on the roads later on. We have a choice of a range of breakfast foods. The cost is £3 per session and this is paid in advance via parent pay.

### Walking Bus

We would love to get the walking bus up and running again but we are having trouble finding enough volunteers to walk with the children from the Co-op or Moor Furlong each morning. The idea is that parents can drop their children off with the volunteers to be walked together up to school. Training is provided for volunteers by the County Council. This would save many parents having to park their cars around school. Please contact Mrs Cullen if you are interested in helping.

### Walk to school

If you live some distance from the school and need to drive, please consider parking further away from school and walking part way to get those step counts up. Alternatively, you might consider car sharing with parents from your child's year group bubble.

### Park considerately, park safely

If you need to park around school, please avoid blocking drives where people may need to leave from to attend an appointment or go to work. Please also avoid double parking or parking on pavements. Some roads are becoming blocked because the gap left is too narrow to drive through and some children are being forced to walk in the road because of blocked pavements.

## Epipens and Medicines

If your child has an epipen, inhaler or other medicine in school please make sure that it is up to date and replace it when the expiry date is reached. If you are not sure, please check at the school office.



## Association of Friends

'Hello again from team AFWS!! We have a fully elected committee for 21/22 school year and are super excited about all the events we have planned for the children and what we are hoping to raise money for. Have a look at our noticeboard inside the junior entrance to find updated details of the committee and news.

We are kicking off the year with our 'Welcome Back' Junior discos on Friday. A slightly different and shorter format but we are still hoping we will have your full support for our first in school event in over 18 months! We can't wait to see the children in their party clothes, having a dance, eating treats and enjoying themselves with their friends. We are mindful of keeping our events as COVID safe as possible and hand sanitiser will be provided for all children and helpers. We are offering a range of refreshments, all in closed bags or singly wrapped items, water bottles will be labelled with child's name and the rooms will be well ventilated. We are also offering vegetarian sweets and hotdogs which will hopefully cater for everyone's wishes. Tom our favourite DJ is back to entertain the children with his fantastic playlist. We hope the children have lots of fun! £2 on the door!

We hope that your child has brought their completed Christmas card design back home and your orders have been sent back to school with the correct money/cheque by today. They will be sorted this weekend ready to send off next week but any late orders please send back to school by Tues 12th at the absolute latest to ensure the designs are back by the end of November. We love seeing all the children's designs and we will put a selection on our Facebook page. John German are very kindly sponsoring us again this year and would like to choose a Christmas card for their company card which is very exciting so please get your orders in asap. We have also had a very kind donation from Arnold Clark of £500 so thank you very much to them.

We are also organising an end of term Halloween tuckshop so watch this space for further details and then next term we will be busy organising our Christmas events - probably not the usual Christmas fayre but we have a lot of ideas up our sleeves so please keep the afternoon of Saturday November 27th free.

Our next meeting is on Thurs Nov 4th at 7pm at the Anglesey Arms. Adults only please as secret Christmas planning taking place - Ssshhhh!

## Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy

A reminder about our school Child Protection procedures (taken from page 11 of the school prospectus). 'Parents should be aware that the school will take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils. In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to ill treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, staff have no alternative but to follow County Child Protection Procedures and inform Social Services of their concern.'

The Designated Safeguarding Leads at our school are Mrs Elsmore, Mrs Curtis, Mr Runacus and Mrs S Salt.

A reminder that school Child Protection Procedures do not cover clubs run by independent bodies that have after-school activities held on our school premises. Parents may wish to satisfy themselves that such providers have robust child protection procedures.

**Reminder** - the school office is open from **8.00 am** to **4.30 pm**. The phone lines get very busy in the mornings. If you wish to report an absence you can email [absence@williamshrewsbury.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:absence@williamshrewsbury.staffs.sch.uk)

## Zones of Regulation

We have introduced Zones of Regulation as a whole school approach to help our children recognise, understand and manage their emotions.

Zones of Regulation is an approach used to support the development of self-regulation in children. All the different ways children feel and the states of alertness they experience are categorised into four coloured zones. Children who are well regulated are able to be in the appropriate zone at the appropriate time.

The Zones of Regulation curriculum teaches children how to use calming techniques, cognitive strategies, and sensory supports to stay in a zone or move from one zone to another.



The **Red Zone** is used to describe extremely heightened states of alertness and intense emotions. A person may be elated or experiencing anger, rage, devastation, or terror when in the Red Zone.

The **Yellow Zone** is also used to describe a heightened state of alertness and elevated emotions, however one has more control when they are in the Yellow Zone. A person may be experiencing stress, frustration, anxiety, excitement, silliness, the wiggles, or nervousness when in the Yellow Zone.

The **Green Zone** is used to describe a calm state of alertness. A person may be described as happy, focused, content, or ready to learn when in the Green Zone. This is the zone where optimal learning occurs.

The **Blue Zone** is used to describe low states of alertness and down feelings such as when one feels sad, tired, sick, or bored.

## Goals of The ZONES Curriculum

### TEACHES STUDENTS:

- Identify their feelings and levels of alertness
- Understand their feelings in context
- Effective regulation tools
- When and how to use tools
- Problem solve positive solutions
- Understand how their behaviors influence others' thoughts and feelings

...And ultimately move towards Independent Regulation

If you would like to learn more about Zones of Regulation, please contact Heidi Elsmore (Assistant Head/ Inclusion Lead).



## William Shrewsbury Primary School Parent Code of Conduct



At William Shrewsbury Primary School we are very fortunate to have a supportive and friendly parent body. Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves a partnership between parents, class teachers and the school community. As part of that partnership, our parents understand the importance of a good working relationship in order to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. We welcome and encourage parents and carers to participate fully in the life of our school. This notice is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about their expected conduct so we can continue to enable children to flourish and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

### Guidance

We expect parents, carers and visitors to:

- Support and adhere to school policies and procedures
- Understand that both teachers and parents need to work together for the benefit of their children.
- Demonstrate that all members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore set a good example in their own speech and behaviour.
- Seek to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Correct their own child's behaviour especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.
- Approach the school to help resolve any issues of concern.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children's behaviour.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment the school cannot tolerate parents, carers and visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes with the operation of a classroom, office or any other area of the school grounds.
- Using loud/or offensive language, swearing, or displaying temper.
- Threatening to harm a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence.
- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications.
- Defamation of the school or staff character on Facebook or other social networking sites.
- The use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards your own child/ren.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs
- Dogs being brought on to school premises.

Should any of the above behaviour occur on school premises the school will follow the actions detailed in the "Abusive or Threatening Behaviour" policy which is available from the office. We trust that parents and carers will help in implementing this policy and we thank you for your continuing support.

**Please contact the school office if you would like to volunteer to be more involved in school life, be it as a parent helper, member of AFWS or School Governor. We value and welcome your contribution, however large or small.**

Elaine Curtis, Headteacher, October 2021