



Engage Develop Aspire Communicate
Our vision
Working towards successful futures

Principal's message to families – 17 May 2024

Next week's Lower school word of the week is - [rescue](#)

The Upper school word of the week is – [consequence](#)

Finally, the sunshine is back which was a lovely start to the day today. I came into school reflecting on yet another busy week and about the numerous things that have been happening. When you consider that we've been celebrating Mental Health Awareness week; senior leaders have been in discussions with Local Authorities and monitoring the quality of children's education; there is planning ahead for the rest of the Summer term, and planning the new reading garden (anyone know any gardening celebrities who might open it for us??); we've been recruiting new staff (a maternity cover, sensory integration trained OT- Yeyyh!); the premises team continue to look after our beautiful site, a group of staff are producing new resources to support staff working with our children; AND we had an amazing theatre production of The Hobbit for some children. No wonder we're ready for the weekend!

Let me share a bit more detail...

Mental Health Awareness Week.....Let's get moving!

It has been a busy week around school with Mental Health Awareness being brought into many areas of the school day.

Some of our young people have been working on 'Let's get moving' with regular activities outside with links to their OT Sensory diets, whilst others have been exploring their understanding of Mental Health.

We have also thought about the staff and their wellbeing and mental health by sharing top tips for mental health as well as starting the day on Tuesday with the offer of Tea and Toast.

Primary 1 area

I wanted to share with you the before and after photos of the primary area that we have just completed.

The main reason is to thank the premises team as always, but I really want to thank Cody. He has been involved in the project from start to finish, as part of his work experience. He's been responsible for making the framework, cutting the wood, screwing it together, laying and cutting the membrane, shovelling the bark and levelling it all up. He really has been a massive help to the premises team and certainly made the task a lot quicker.



His time at Dawn House is coming to an end, but what amazing developments he will leave behind. The Primary 1 class said a big thank you to him today and gave all the team a thank you card. The work Cody has completed whilst being with us, has been second to none.

We are certainly going to miss him.



And....Okeley

Okeley has had time to settle in and enrich and support pupils over the past two weeks, he has given pupils opportunities to:

- apply independence skills such as setting up, checking and filling up what a rabbit needs in his living area and outdoor space.
- social skills, there has been lots of working together to keep the rabbit safe, hand feeding him, stroking him, moving him between spaces, walking him, clearing his living space, teaching each other key features of how to care for the rabbit and best practise holding him, handling him and feeding him.
- apply Zones Of Regulation, using Okeley to share how we feel and as a strategy to continue to feel green. He has had a great impact in supporting those in the annex (and other areas of school) feel green with his presence, calm nature, the fact he needs caring for and giving purposeful jobs for those who need this to regulate.
- communicate- this has been the highlight as we have had extended communication from pupils who find it difficult to share their thoughts and ideas. In particular a pupil with selective mutism has been openly talking to peers and adults about how to best care for rabbits and demonstrating how to do this with Okeley

Next week...

On Wednesday 22nd we have our **Around the Word themed activity day**. There will be a range of activities throughout the day and **we invite pupils to wear an outfit reflecting a country they are interested in** or have cultural connexions to. It's just for fun so school uniform is fine too!

Don't forget our **options event** on Thursday 23rd at 2.30

I hope you all have a restful and sunny weekend,
Jenny.

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If your child leaves home in the morning a little unsettled and you want to quickly tell us, so we know to expect a tricky start to the day, a quick email (that we can follow up later) to the tutor and/or core team with **'Handle with Care'** in the email title will ensure that we are aware.