

Friday 24th January 2025

## Principal's Messages:

### This week's awards

RD and 6E were the winners of this week's Stronger Together awards. They have collected the most tokens for great examples of working hard and being kind. Isabella Evanson was nominated for Principal's Award this week by Mr Jones for her amazing effort so far this term. Eva Stubner was nominated by Miss Frodsham for working incredibly hard in all areas. Marliya Grant-Evans has been nominated by Mr Pawley for her hard work ethic and effort over the past 2 weeks and the whole of Y3 were nominated for their amazing effort at Buwardsley or their excellent project work back at school. Well done to you all!



### Make up and nails

There has been a sudden introduction of pupils coming to school wearing make up or false nails. This is not appropriate for school and should be left for special occasions at home. I have discussed this with the pupils in assembly this morning but please can I ask that parents support us with this. This also includes bringing lip gloss into school.

### Healthy lunchbox

Most of our pupils come to school with a healthy nutritious packed lunch that ensure they have full tummies for the afternoon and are able to focus on learning appropriately. There are a small number of pupils who have sweets or lollypops in their lunchboxes. Please can we request that they are not included and are kept for treats at home.



*Mrs Thompson*

**A reminder that school will close for the half term break on Friday 14th February 2025 and reopen to pupils on Monday 24th February 2025**

## Attendance Matters

Here are our attendance figures for this week

Our school target:	96%	
Overall school attendance this week:	90.84%	
Overall school attendance this year:	93.6%	
RB – 90.33%	2S – 96%	5F – 96.45% ★
RD – 93.08%	3J – 93.45%	5S – 88.39%
1J – 93.72%	3P – 85.16%	6E – 94.67%
1L – 87.08%	4S – 94.09%	6H – 90.33%
2P – 91.85%	4W – 78.33%	



For more information regarding attendance and punctuality; including term time absences and our policies, please see our webpage:

<http://www.leightonacademy.com>

## School Meals

If your child is not entitled to a free school meal, please log onto their Arbor account to pay for their meal in advance of their order. School meals are £2.45 per day

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Red Option	Margherita Pizza with Baked Potato Wedges	Pork Sausage with Creamy Mash Potato & Gravy	Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potato & Gravy	Cottage Pie	Fish Fingers & Chips
Yellow Option	Vegetarian Bolognese	Vegetarian Sausage with Creamy Mash Potato & Gravy	Quorn Fillet with Roast Potato & Gravy	Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry with 50/50 Rice	Vegetable Fingers with Chips
Green Option	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato
Orange Option	Sandwich Selection	Sandwich Selection	Sandwich Selection	Sandwich Selection	Sandwich Selection
Desserts	Chocolate Sponge	Shortbread	Flapjack	Apple Crumble & Custard	Chocolate Cookie
	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt
Seasonal Vegetables and Salad Bar					

### Term Time Absence Requests

As detailed in our Attendance Policy, and in line with DfE guidance, we do not authorise leave of absence during term other than when exceptional circumstances permit.

If you wish to take your child out of school during term time, it is important to discuss this with us as much in advance as possible, so we can guide you through the process. However, where absence is unauthorised, it could lead to further action being taken including a penalty notice being issued. Department for Education information regarding this is available by clicking [here](#).

[Leave of Absence Request Online Form](#)

Holiday Dates 2024 / 2025		
TERM	DATE OF CLOSING	DATE OF RE-OPENING
<b>AUTUMN TERM</b>		
Half Term	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024
Christmas Holiday	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
<b>SPRING TERM</b>		
Half Term	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Spring Break	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>SUMMER TERM</b>		
May Bank Holiday	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025
Half Term	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Summer Holiday	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
		Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025

### Term Dates

I have noticed an error on our term dates that have previously been sent out to parents and posted on our website.

This has now been amended to show that school will close for the Summer break on Friday 18th July 2025 and Monday 21st July 2025 will be an INSET day.

Apologies for the error.

#### In-service Training Days for 2024/25 (school closed to pupils)

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024  
 Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
 Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025  
 Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025  
 Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

## 1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

## 2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

## 3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

## 4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

## 5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

## 6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

## 7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

## 8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each other.

## 9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

## 10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

## Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/choose-respect>

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