6.10.23

Urmston Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers…have a lovely weekend, from us all at UPS

PARENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING…3.45 NEXT THURSDAY…11th October

Next week, we will be holding a Parent Partnership meeting here at school (exact location TBC). We use these opportunities to discuss all elements of school life and it provides all of you the opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas on what we might do to develop further and the myrid things we need to consider to support our children in the best way possible. One thing we will certainly be discussing is the impact of screens (as mentioned on the next page from last week), but the rest of the agenda is very much down to what you might want to discuss. If you cannot make the meeting but would like certain points to be raised, please do email in and we'll use that as a discussion point. Thanks and we hope to see you here if possible!

READING…and records!

Reading is so incredibly important. Most important is for us all to nurture a love and enjoyment of reading as it is our hope that despite the rise in all sorts of other stimulating attractions in today's society, nothing is quite the same as getting lost in a wonderful book. Of course, in order to enable this, fluency is key as without this the children are far less likely to comprehend, respond to, and enjoy what they are reading. We obviously need your help here and so please ensure your children are keeping up with their reading (we expect at least three entries in their record a week) and if you'd like a little help in how to nurture the love, please do come and ask!

SEND FORUM

Please join us here at 2.30pm on Thursday 16th November to discuss all things SEND. We realise that this time may not suit all but there really is never a good time, is there! If you can't make it but would like some thoughts discussed or questions answered, please do let us know! We hope to see you then.

A VISIT FROM ANDREW WESTERN MP

Andrew came in to meet Year 6 to talk about his role as an MP for Stretford and Urmston and to answer their questions relating to the climate crisis that we find ourselves in that affects us on a local, national and global level. The children showed great interest in such important current affairs and it was great for them to meet someone who has such an important role in listening to people and making the world better. Thank you, Andrew!

PE KITS

Please can we remind you that PE kits are part of school uniform. They should be black (or dark grey) shorts or tracksuit/ jogging bottoms, with a red or white polo-neck or t-shirt. They should not be branded. We want our children to take pride in being part of our school and so uniform is an important part of this. Thank you.

PTA Coffee Morning

This will now be on Friday 20th October at 8.15. All money taken will be going to St Ann's Hospice, so do please join us when it comes around!

TTRS!!!!!

Mrs B, our Maths Lead, keeps getting notifications that children are playing on out-of-date version of Times Tables Rockstars. Please do keep urging your children to play at home but if using the website at home, go to play.ttrockstars.com/reset to load the latest version in their device's browser. Otherwise, you'll need to update the Times Tables Rock Stars app from the app store. Getting children engaged in this will really help their rapid recall of times tables! Thanks for your support!

Greenfield Church
Baptist & Congregational
Urmston

Decorate the glasses Competition

£1.00 entry fee (attach on back with name and age) raising money for

Sightsavers - Greenfield Church's Harvest Project

Use crayons, felt tips, paints, any materials. Entries to be in by 1.30pm on Saturday 14th October for exhibiting at the Harvest Fair. Prizes for winners in different age categories announced on Sunday 15th October.

Sightsavers

Children are to see class teachers for entry sheets!

As ever, keeping our children safe and happy online isn't easy...

YOU TUBE, TIKTOK AND THINGS ON SCREENS

We've had a number of conversations amongst staff in school recently about the perils of life online. It is fair to say that there are so many positives to take from the internet and being part of online communities, and so many learning opportunities. However, we are becoming increasingly mindful of the issues that are arising from our children spending too much time on screens. The instant stimulus and dopamine hit that we all get (yes, including we grown-ups) from little videos on platforms such as Tiktok and Youtube is meaning that our attention spans are dwindling. Furthermore, our capacity to be bored and be in a headspace to be happy doing not a great deal is lessening. For our children, we fear that this is leading to fewer opportunities, and a weakened will to want, to be creative and imaginative, which can often grow from those periods when the mind is quieter and less stimulated. In short, we feel that we might all need to take a step back and look at whether we feel as things stand, screen time is having too much of a negative impact on our children's mental health and wellbeing and stifling their attention and creativity. We have a PARENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING ON THE 11TH OCTOBER where we'd like to discuss this, whether we think that this is becoming a concern, and whether we want to do something about it. As always, your views are integral to the messaging we give to our children and so please feel free to get in touch and come along to the meeting too!

PARENTS COMMS...AND SEESAW!

We've said this a couple of times but please don't rely on Seesaw as the best way to get in touch with teachers...they aren't on there relentlessly! We realise that you might not always be around before or after school but the best way to get in touch is often by catching them on the door or via the office email. We place no expectations for staff to check their Seesaw messages every night so some messages may not always get answered. Thanks for your understanding.

MUSIC @ UPS!

Not only do we work with the Trafford Music Service for support in delivering our music curriculum, but we also work with their super teachers to deliver specific instrument tuition for our children. Take a look at urmstonprimary.com/curriculum/music for what we have to offer!

BLACK LEGACY MONTH

October is Black History Month. But this October, we've decided to celebrate our own 'Black Legacy Month' to ensure that rather than dwelling solely on the challenges of the past, we celebrate the figures from black history that still inspire and motivate us today. Each year group has a different figure from black history so please talk to your children about the reasons why they leave such a legacy and how they might inspire us to 'be more' today and in the future.

Thank you so much to Urmston Masonic Lodge for their generous donation of books to our school library. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

BEING MORE...

Well done to Nicole, Ellie-May and Ruby who've shown such respect and responsibility for looking after your environment when litter-picking. Super being more girls!

CLASSROOM ACTION…

Another busy week...we've been working on our apparatus routines; acting out 'The Forgiving Servant'!; created our 'Just Like a Roman' actions; dreaming like Martin Luther King; making our own sound funnels to amplify hearing and learning about Alexander Graham Bell; singing in rounds; learning about and practicing with, tuned and untuned instruments; comparing numbers using manipulatives; respectfully discussing Muslim symbols of belonging and designing a cover for the Ka'aba using all the symbols we learnt about; looking at different historical sources and knowing what primary sources might be...and eye-witnesses too; and we did finish some topic projects as well! (...and much more!)