

Wisewood Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr Ben Ramsden
Assistant Head: Miss Claire Austin



Friday 21st March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we come approach the end of another term and look forward to the Easter Break, I would like to address a concern I have concerning a growing disconnect in society between school and home regarding our approach and attitude towards behaviour management.

Recently, we have noted an increase in the number of parents questioning a teacher's professional opinion when being informed of instances of their child behaving poorly or in an unacceptable manner. I am concerned that, if we do not address this immediately, home – school relationships will suffer, leaving teachers feeling unsupported and parents frustrated.

A common concern raised by parents is the perception that their children have been 'shouted at'. It is important to clarify that at Wisewood, we do not utilise shouting as a strategy for behaviour management or to maintain control in the classroom. Instead, our approach is rooted in the concept of 'universal positive regard'.

(Please see www.positiveregard.co.uk for more details. Mr Ramsden, Miss Austin and Mrs Wales are certified 'Specialist Leaders'.)

Children may misinterpret a firm tone or being corrected, perceiving it as being 'shouted at'. We believe that making mistakes is a natural part of the learning process, and we are dedicated to guiding our pupils towards improvement. We expect children to make mistakes every day. However, we also expect staff to pick up on these and correct them. A collaborative effort between school and home is vital in helping our children understand that when they are corrected, it is a step towards their personal development. We need your support in reinforcing this important lesson, illustrating that learning, both academic and social, includes moments of error which are pivotal in achieving success.

In light of this, we are pleased to announce a series of 'Meet the Headteacher' sessions, commencing on Tuesday 15th April. These will take place every Tuesday morning after drop-off and will include a brief presentation regarding our school priorities and outcomes, a tour of the school, and an opportunity for you to raise any questions you might have with the Leadership Team. We will visit classrooms and you will be able to see how pupils and adults interact on a daily basis. We hope these sessions will foster a greater understanding of our practices and reinforce the partnership between home and school.

At Wisewood, we take immense pride in the high-quality education our children receive. They get a really good deal. Our dedicated and skilled staff maintain high academic expectations, with our school ranking in the top 4% nationally for reading and mathematics attainment last year. Furthermore, our Year 4 children have excelled, achieving the top 1% nationally for two consecutive years in the times tables check.

The exemplary behaviour and politeness of our children has led to consistently positive feedback from external visitors and colleagues alike. Outside of academic success we offer a broad and rich curriculum, a diverse range of extra-curricular activities at no extra charge and strive to keep costs for trips to a minimum to ensure that everyone is able to participate.

I want Wisewood to continue to improve and for our teachers to feel valued and empowered to deliver the exceptional education that your children deserve. Thank you for your ongoing support in working alongside us to deliver this.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Ramsden
Headteacher

To book onto a 'Meet the Headteacher' session please contact the School Office or email me directly at headteacher@wisewood.sheffield.sch.uk.