



Hill West Primary School

Pedagogical Newsletter – February 2018

Times Tables

Originally, (Jan 2016) the Government were keen that every pupil should know their times tables up to 12 x 12 by the time they reached the end of primary school. However, schools are now expected to administer a times table test to all pupils in Year 4. This test will be introduced from 2019-2020. Children will be expected to complete the test on-screen and will have to give timed responses to a series of multiplication questions and the test will be scored instantly. A recurring theme across Mathematics teaching in primary school is the lack of instant recall of times tables and multiplication facts. Learning times tables and developing recall facts for multiplication tables is an essential 'little and often' part of homework along the same lines all schools expect with reading. Research suggests at primary school this is the sort of homework that has the potential to make the most difference.



Issue 21
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In this issue:

Times Tables

Mental Health
Green Paper

An Open Letter

Sexting

Thank You

Rights Respecting
School Award

Parent View



Reminders:

School is closed for half term from Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February 2018.

Mental Health Green Paper

On 4th December 2017, the DfE and Department of Health released 'Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision: a Green Paper' which outlines what the government wants to do to help children and young people with their mental health. According to the Green Paper, 1 in 10 young people have some form of diagnosable mental health condition and the government is "committed" to ensuring support is provided to those who need it. The Green paper sets out three ways in which the government will take action to fill the gap in support for children and young people's mental health. These are called the "core green paper proposals". **Core proposal 1 is a designated senior lead for mental health in every school.** The mental health lead will be a trained member of staff who is responsible for the school's approach to mental health and will oversee the whole school approach including how mental health is addressed in school policies and the curriculum. The mental health lead will also support the identification of pupils who are at risk of developing

mental ill health and pupils who are displaying signs of a mental health condition. **Core proposal 2 is to ensure there are mental health support teams working with schools.** These teams will work with the mental health leads in each of the schools offering individual and group help to young people with mild to moderate mental health issues e.g. anxiety. **Core proposal 3 is shorter waiting times.** As mental health support teams are trialled and rolled out, the NHS will pilot implementing reduced waiting times for access to NHS-funded children and young people's mental health services. The aim is to bring the waiting times to within four weeks. The "new approach", which incorporates all three of the core proposals, will be rolled out in a number of trailblazer areas from 2019. The specific full rollout date will be determined by the success of the trailblazers and securing funding; however, the government is aiming for the approach to be rolled out to at least a fifth of the country by the end of 2022/2023. The core proposals will be supported by wider changes including mental health awareness training for every school and a commitment from every school to teach children about mental well-being.





An Open Letter

Page 2 of 3

Glossary of Terms

Pedagogy – the craft of teaching

Green Paper – a preliminary report of government proposals that is published in order to provoke discussion

Sexting – taking of indecent images to share via a mobile device or other forms of technology.

Local Governing Body – the group of people / volunteers who formulate the policy and strategic functions of our school

Parent View – an on-line questionnaire for parents about their child's school



As many of you will know, adoption is very close to my heart. You may have watched recently, voice coach and TV presenter, Carrie Grant on BBC One 'The One Show'. She is a mother of four children and her youngest is adopted. In an Open Letter to the 'School Gate' she has spoken out bravely about the pain of rejection her family, and others like her have faced. I am aware however many parents whose children are perceived to be 'different' fear this sort of rejection. Here I include her letter but want to thank the Hill West community in advance for their love and nurture of ALL children.

This is to all the parents in our eight-year old son's old class who never invited our son to your children's parties and who didn't even bother to reply when we invited your children to his parties. Our son was adopted. These days adoption is less about babies being relinquished and more about children being taken into care. Children are not taken into care for no reason. Often they have been neglected, physically or sexually abused and isolated. They all carry trauma. It can take years for a child to get to the point where social workers or the courts finally say, "enough, this child needs a new family". Often, by this point a child like ours may have had four or five different mother figures before his forever family is found. This makes for troubled, traumatised children, most of whom will spend the rest of their lives coming to terms with their early life experiences. Of course, this means their behaviour will not be perfect. Often it will be far from it. Our child hits out. We are not excusing him, we're not making out this is easy for your children or you as parents wanting to protect your little ones. We didn't adopt because we were desperate for another baby, we already have three birth children. We didn't need another child. We didn't adopt thinking it would be easy. We adopted out of love and with the firm belief and knowledge that it "takes a village to raise a child". And this is where you come in. You had the chance to do something really good. You had the chance to teach your children about kindness and difference and to let them know life is not always straightforward for many. Despite this, even in those whose lives are complicated or troubled, there is hope for a better future. And even more importantly community can play a huge part in the healing of a person's life. Your children's friendship could have played a key role in our child's path towards freedom.

When you decided to set up a Mummy WhatsApp group to discuss our son you lost the opportunity to learn and grow and contribute to the amazing society we live in. When you decided to start a petition against our son to have him expelled when he was only allowed in class 20% of the time anyway you sent a message to your own children. We are also parents of teenagers. With this age group the parenting conversation is all about how we can help our young adults to grow resilience, how we have to teach them about the real world. A world that is harsh, unforgiving, unpredictable and sometimes dangerous. It concerns us that this cotton wool upbringing where children aren't exposed to anything other than the perfect ideal doesn't prepare them for a life where difficulties may arise.

By ostracising our child, your own children have missed out on the chance to learn about diversity, conflict resolution, communication and helping others. They have failed to grow in wisdom and emotional intelligence.

And so our son begins his new adventure in his new school. Hand on heart we are so glad we don't have to do the old school run every again. It has taken daily psyching ourselves up to hold our heads high and walk through those gates.

And to those few parents who made eye contact, said hello, engaged us and our son, invited him on the odd play date and didn't join the majority, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You will never know how those small gestures impacted and encouraged us as parents. May your children be richer for the experience as they have enriched our little broken but mending child."



Sexting refers to images, videos or texts generated by children under the age of 18, or of children under the age of 18 that are of a sexual nature or are indecent. These images are then shared between young people and or adults via a mobile phone, handheld device or website with people they may not even know. It is important to be aware that people involved in sharing sexual videos and pictures may be committing a criminal offence. Specifically, crimes involving indecent photographs (including pseudo images) of a person under 18 years of age come under the Protection of Children Act 1978 and Section 160 Criminal Justice Act 1988. Under this legislation it is a crime to: take an indecent photograph or allow an indecent photograph to be taken; Make/create an indecent photograph (this includes downloading or opening an image that has been sent via email); distribute or show such an image; possess with the intention of distributing images; advertise and possess such images; *Disclose without consent so as to cause distress.*

The extent of the problem is alarming. Over one third of young people surveyed (38%) had received a sexually explicit text or email, 36% of males and 39% of females. Over a quarter (25%) had received an offensive sexual image. 85% knew the identity of the aggressor. The majority were peers and only 2% indicated that it was an adult. 6% had received a message or image on the subject of sex which subsequently made them feel uncomfortable or upset. Over half of the teachers surveyed (54%) were aware of pupils creating and sharing sexually explicit messages and images via the internet or mobile



Thank You



You will have no-doubt seen either through the letter issued by Andrew Staples (Chair of our Local Governing Body) or in the recent press releases that our school has been ranked one of the very best schools in the . The Real Schools Guide – featuring every primary school in Birmingham and the Black Country - aims to give parents a comprehensive guide to schools in the region. It takes into account 44 different data points and scores attainment, attainment for all, progress and attendance as five out of five in all areas, placing Hill West as the third – and top performing non-faith primary – school in the city. This also sees us rated as the 256th school nationally out of 14,600 primary schools in the UK. I am delighted that the hard work of staff, governors and pupils at Hill West has been recognised and I would like to thank personally everyone for their hard work, commitment and pursuit of excellence. Our school is ambitious for each and every child and prides itself on the creative way we approach our curriculum delivery. Remember, our medium term plans are on our website and these can be found on the year group pages under the curriculum section. Here you will also find our progressive learning journeys so you know what is expected of your child at each stage of their education. If you have not had the opportunity yet, please visit our website <http://www.hillwest.bham.sch.uk/>



Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)

The RRSA puts children's rights at the heart of our work. The Award will recognise our achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice within the school and beyond. The Award is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. The initiative started in 2006 and schools involved in the Award have reported a positive impact on relationships and wellbeing, leading to better learning and behaviour, improved academic standards and less bullying. Our journey officially commenced towards recognition in September 2017 and is being led by Mrs Bishop, Year 6 class teacher and curriculum lead.

Parent View 2017-2018

Parent view gives you as parents the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school, from the quality of teaching to dealing with bullying and poor behavior. The survey can be completed at any time; you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected. This academic year to date the survey has been completed by 111 parents. The percentage below indicates those that strongly agree or agree with the statements.

99% My child is happy at this school

100% My child feels safe at this school

98% My child makes good progress at this school

98% My child is looked after at this school

97% This school makes sure all pupils are well-behaved