

3rd November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

ODD SOCKS DAY – Monday 13th November

NATIONAL ANTI-BULLYING WEEK (Make a noise about bullying) 13TH - 17TH NOVEMBER

National Anti-Bullying Week is fast approaching and this year the theme is ‘Make a noise about bullying.’ The theme of ‘Make A Noise About Bullying’ came about following consultation with teachers and pupils by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which coordinates Anti-Bullying Week every year in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

Following the success of the campaign in 2022 – when 80% of schools marked the week, reaching over 7.5 million children and young people – Anti-Bullying Week will remind everyone whether it’s in school, at home, in the community or online, we can bring an end to bullying.

Our call to action:

Too often, we are silent when we see bullying take place, silent about the hurt bullying causes, and silent when we hear bullying dismissed as ‘just banter’. It doesn't have to be this way. Of course, we won't like everyone and we don't always agree, but we can choose respect and unity.

This Anti-Bullying Week let's come together to have discussions about what bullying means to us, how banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying. Together, we can make a difference and take a stand against bullying.

To start the week, we are inviting children to wear odd socks on Monday 13th November as a means of raising awareness of Anti-Bullying Week. Odd Socks Day is an opportunity for people to express themselves and to celebrate their individuality and differences. There is no need to purchase new socks – any odd socks will be fine.

Our pupils will be involved in a range of activities which focus on friendships, behaviour and conduct. At our school, our children enjoy socialising and playing with each other during breaks and lunchtimes. Our older pupils mix very well with our younger pupils on the playground and give careful consideration to them whilst running and playing games. Occasionally, children may ‘fall out’ with friends but often these issues are quickly resolved within school. During RHE (Relationship, Health Education) lessons, we cover topics such as ‘Getting On and Falling Out’ and how to respect other people and their differences.

We aim to make all pupils aware of situations which may occur in or out of school, at home or on the internet and to speak to someone they know and trust (parent or teacher) if they have concerns.

As parents and carers we all want our children to be happy and safe, and it is natural to worry about bullying - particularly if we have experienced bullying ourselves or think our child may be more vulnerable to bullying. The good news is you are not alone! The Anti-Bullying Alliance and its members are here to work with children, families, and schools to help keep children safe.

As a parent or carer, you are a vital piece of the puzzle in tackling bullying. You have a unique role to play in guiding and supporting your child through their school years and there are many positive steps you can take to help keep your child safe from bullying and harm. One of the steps is knowing when to ask for support. At the end of this resource, we have included details of organisations like Kidscape that can help.

You can access resources via the website <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2023-make-noise-about-bullying/parents-and-carers>

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs S.Johnson