



*I can't believe that we are heading towards the end of the Autumn Term. It certainly has been an action packed half term! Our School Council has been busy this half term; they have sold merchandise for the British Legion Poppy Appeal, run a recycled costume pop up shop and interviewed Mrs Luffman, the CEO of Resilience Multi Academy Trust about our school joining the Trust.*

*Mrs Oakley and some children led a Diwali assembly; it was a wonderful celebration and we all learnt about different family traditions celebrated over this time.*

*Some of our Team Captains and Year 6 children represented our school at the Churwell Remembrance event and laid a wreath on behalf of us all. Some of our children have also attended the Morley Cluster Council meetings at Morley Town Hall.*

*Some of our children's designs have been chosen for a tile installation at Morley Train Station; look out for their designs!*

*In our anti-bullying focus week, we talked about choosing respect and the children worked on different activities throughout the week. We held a Kindness Super Raffle and children earned tickets for their kind choices. We had a special kindness hot chocolate treat with rainbow cookies.*

*Year 5 have enjoyed a visit to Saltaire as part of their history learning about the Victorians, and Year 1 and Year 5 have made visits to St Peter's Church to support their learning in RE. The Fire Service visited Year 5 and supported the children to learn about fire safety in the home.*

*We have had sporting success in an Indoor Athletics event where the children have qualified for the next round of the competition. We also attended a Cheerleading event at Beeston Primary School; the children were fantastic role models for our school. Mr Cooper's Year 5 and 6 girls football team have also been training hard and he is so proud of them.*

*Miss Porter and Mrs Tindale took the Reception and KS1 winners of the 'name a bear' competition to Build a Bear; the children created new reading bears for each class. The children were so excited about this, and the bears are enjoying going home with children who have been focused on their reading at home. I told you it had been busy!*

### Diary Dates

School closes for Christmas break – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

School opens for the start of Spring term – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

School closes for half term – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Training Day – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

School opens for Spring term 2 – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February

School closes for Easter – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

We will send out a more detailed overview when we return to school in January.

### Fund raising this term

Thank you for your generous donations to our charity events. So far this year we have raised: £482 for Children in Need, an amazing £557.00 (so far) for Leeds Children's Hospital and we await the total for the Royal British Legion. As well as all your wonderful donations for Festive Fun.

Thank you for your generosity, you are all amazing!

### Zones of Regulation

We have worked on Zones of Regulation training with our staff team and rolled this out to all classes this half term.

Zones of Regulation is a colour system that allows children to express how they are feeling. We will develop this learning over the year to support all children with their social, emotional and mental health.

Please see this visual prompt to have a discussion about the zones with your child.

## The ZONES of Regulation

			
<b>Blue Zone</b> Sad Bored Tired Sick	<b>Green Zone</b> Happy Focused Calm Proud	<b>Yellow Zone</b> Worried Frustrated Silly Excited	<b>Red Zone</b> overjoyed/Elated Panicked Angry Terrified

### Arriving at school on time

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that school starts at 8.45am. Children must be in their classroom at this time. The school gates open at 8.30am. We are experiencing a high number of late arrivals at the office each morning. When a child arrives late they are missing an important part of the school day, where the Teacher outlines the plan for the day or the children complete basic skills work which supports their learning. All parents/carers will be asked for a reason for their child's late arrival. Please support your child to arrive at school on time each day, to embed life-long learning skills.

### Online Safety Support

Leeds Safeguarding Children's Partnership have put together the following information for us to share with parents about talking to your child about staying safe online:

Most of us tend to think of our online and offline lives as separate, but children today are growing up with technology and the internet as a natural part of their lives. To them there isn't a separation. It's all just life. The internet is now part of the real world.

Talking to your child about what they do online is just as important as asking where they are going when they go out with their friends. It can be difficult starting the conversation with your child about their online activities. Technology keeps changing and you might find it overwhelming trying to keep up with it all, but you don't need to. You just need to take an interest in what apps and games your child is using. That's the best place to start.

Your child might not want to share anything with you at first but keep trying.

Having honest and open conversations with your child and speaking to them regularly about what they are doing online, could be crucial in giving your child the confidence to tell you if they have seen something that makes them feel uncomfortable or may highlight someone who is wanting to cause harm.

Further guidance is available on the [LSCP website](#) as well as information on [how to set up parental control](#) on all the devices that your child uses.

### **Parent/Carer Questionnaire**

We had 298 responses to our questionnaire. Thank you to those that made a return. 97% of parents/carers said that they would recommend our school to another parent – this is a fantastic result.

I have shared the results and comments with the Governors and Leadership Team, and a copy of the results is also attached to this ParentMail message. Governors will send more information in response to this in the new year, after the full governors meeting in January.

### **Governors in School Day**

Our Governors spent time in school on 16<sup>th</sup> October. They worked with children and teachers in class, spoke to different groups of children and met with staff to discuss curriculum subjects and action plans for the development of these subjects. Here are some of the Governor's reflections on the day:

#### **Ian Milner**

My day was split across 4 classes and 2-year groups. What struck me was the diversity of ability within the classes and how the lessons can be tailored to that ability. In all 4 classes each child is resilient to the busy environment and focussed on learning while in the classroom.

The classrooms were all happy places with the children understanding what good looks like and where they will be rewarded for good pieces of work.

#### **Antony Huggins**

Reflecting on my visit, I am once again struck by the exceptional efforts of Churwell Primary School to provide a nurturing, stimulating environment for its pupils. The classrooms are bright, welcoming, and brimming with student work and resources. It's particularly heartening to see the prominence of books, which are so vital to fostering a love of learning. The dedication of the staff, from the Inclusion Team to classroom teachers, ensures that every child has the opportunity to thrive. Churwell Primary truly goes above and beyond to support its students, and it's a pleasure to witness the incredible work being done here.

#### **Laura Brearley**

As Governor with Safeguarding responsibility, I spent a lovely day having the pleasure of meeting with 4 children from each year group and 13 members of staff from across the school.

On speaking with staff, it was evident they have an excellent knowledge and understanding of safeguarding within school and that keeping children safe is a priority. Training is up to date and staff are enthusiastic about developing their knowledge.

It is also clear that safeguarding is embedded well within the curriculum.

Children from Reception up to Year 6 were keen to tell me how happy and safe they feel at school because of their teachers who look after them and their friends.

The children were very enthusiastic about Churwell Primary School and the things that keep them safe whilst in school including circle time, the helping hand, rainbow rules, the golden three and the playground pledge. All children I spoke to had big smiles on their faces, and it was clear to see they enjoy being at school, feel safe and supported and know that if they ever have a problem, it will be dealt with.

I came away from Governors in School Day feeling confident that Churwell Primary is a nurturing and supportive place to be and somewhere I am proud to be a Governor.

### **Steve Webber**

Starting with Nursery, from the very start the day is well structured and packed with activities. It's clear that the children enjoy being in the setting. There was some real excitement that morning as gingerbread men were being made as one of the day's activities. What always strikes me in nursery is how quickly the children pick up and join in with the classroom activities. This was only just over a month into the school year, yet they all knew how to join in with the songs, activities and movements which form part of carpet time. A group were very willing to show me how things were done too!

Moving to Reception, after registration, work starts as a class group on the carpet. I observed phonics which leveraged the interactive screens and involved lots of pupil involvement. An element of the work included reinforcement of sounds already learnt alongside the learning of new ones.

Following on from here is a blended mix of play and learning as some small groups are taken out to spend time with staff doing reading, phonics, maths or other writing work. The Reception setting is well set out into areas which focus elements of their play on specific key skills, but with each one having a specific learning goal – even if that is just at tidy up time counting how many blocks go into each box.

On warmer days I am sure extensive use will be made of the newly refurbished outdoor area. This excellent space includes areas for play as well as an outdoor classroom.

Classroom walls are covered with examples of topic work which the children were very keen to tell me about. There was clearly some real pride in the work which they had contributed to.

Over the course of the afternoon, I spoke with a small group of Reception children who told me that they all feel happy and safe at Churwell Primary School. They understand who to speak with if they have any problems and really do know why it's important to follow the rules. With just a little help from one of the displays, the group were able to tell me all the rules. The really clever aspect of Reception is that the children don't realise quite how hard they work whilst in the setting.

Churwell Primary Nursery is a bright, well equipped and a happy place to be. As with all my visits, I am amazed that come any weather the children love to play outside. On this visit however, the excitement was certainly focused around the making of gingerbread men. I was lucky enough to have one given to me, Greggs certainly have reason to be concerned!

Churwell Primary Nursery is clearly a superb start for children, many of whom will continue their schooling in Reception. It's a happy, safe and well-resourced environment within which children learn and develop.

### **Sarah O'Hagan**

I always really look forward to spending Governors Day in School, as I am the link governor for KS1 most of my day was spent in year 1 and 2.

The day started with a KS1 assembly led by Miss Porter, on my way to and from the hall I got to experience 'perfect walking' which was very impressive. It was clear everyone understands the expectations and later during some pupil voice the children were able to explain why it's important that they move around school calmly.

### **Phonics**

One of the school development plans priorities is around teaching of phonics and the implementation of Floppy's Phonics so I was able to witness this in both year 1 classes, it was useful to see what we have discussed at Governors meetings in practice.

I could see how different children were accessing the lesson at different levels, yet all abilities were engaged.

### **Playtime**

I went to playtime with year 1, there were lots of different activities to enjoy and everyone was involved in something, the structure of having things to do seemed to ensure the playtime was calm but fun.

### **Year 2**

I took part in a shape hunt with year 2, the lesson took place outside where we hunted around the playground for shapes and completed a tally of the ones we had seen. The class really enjoyed looking for the shapes and were really focused on the task, they were able to tell me all about the properties of different shapes which they had learnt about in a previous lesson.

After lunch I spent more time with year 2, the class were working in small groups on various tasks whilst the class teacher was doing guided reading with a group. The classroom was very calm, everyone was focused on what they were meant to be doing. I spoke to children as they worked, everyone I spoke to was keen to explain what they were doing; it was lovely to see the pride they were taking in their work.

### **Rainbow Learners**

I visited a small group of children who were at Rainbow learners with Mrs Kumari, I was so impressed the provision is incredible. The session is short enough to keep focus and is well structured, the children were given clear instructions on the plan for the session both verbally and with visual aids, they took part enthusiastically in songs, doh disco and a game before they were given some free choice.

I think we are incredibly lucky to be able to offer this provision for groups for children away from the main classroom.

### **Pupil Voice**

This is always a highlight of Governors in School Day! I spoke with a group of children from year 1 and 2 who were incredibly open about the good and the bad parts of Churwell Primary and I have to say the good far outweighs the bad!

“Churwell Primary is a good place to be”

“Everyone is kind and helpful”

“My teacher helps me learn and is really fun”

“If I’m worried, I can tell any adult and they will help me”

“I feel really happy at Churwell”

We talked about our favourite subjects, maths, English and art were the top three.

We talked about all the rewards for good work and good behaviour, they thought that there were lots of reasons to try hard and knew why it was important that they did, and everyone wanted to be Always Child as they think that’s the best reward.

The only thing they would like to change was playtime, they would like more time!

As always it was lovely to experience another day in school, thank you to pupils and staff for always making us feel so welcome.

Thank you to all the Governors who attended the day, it is always a pleasure to welcome you into school.

***Thank you for your continued support – we have such a great school community and wonderful children and I am so proud to be the Headteacher. Thank you for the positive comments about the performances and your generosity with donations to our chosen***

*charities and the Festive Fun gifts. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy, positive new year. Enjoy special family time.*

*Thank you for your amazing children; they make our school a wonderful place to learn and work.*

***Mrs Rupa Barson***  
***Headteacher***