



WITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
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13th November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Anti-Bullying Week 2018

Anti-bullying week is held nationally every year and creates a special opportunity for all schools to turn their attention to this important issue. Bullying in all forms is extremely distressing for any victim and schools have an important role in working together with families and society to teach children the importance of respect and kindness. This year we are using Anti-Bullying week to hold a special 'Kindness Week'. During this, children will be allocated a secret person to whom they will, over the week, carry out 'random acts of kindness'. In addition, the children will be working together to create a Kindness Tree, with special messages of kindness, and undertaking some classroom learning on the theme of anti-bullying. This is in addition to our usual assemblies and PSHCE curriculum related to respect, empathy and anti-bullying.

We take all allegations of bullying extremely seriously, this includes racist, homophobic, gender-based or bullying related to disabilities. Our school maintains a strict anti-bullying policy, which you can access on our website. As with any incident regarding physical or verbal aggression of any kind, the school always investigates fully. School policies and procedures to deal with allegations and consequences of bullying behaviours are *always* followed. Further, we consider it one of our greatest responsibilities as educators to include a strong element of restorative practice, so that children can fully appreciate the extent to which they may have hurt the feelings of another child. Our families are overwhelmingly supportive in addressing unwanted behaviour in their children and in supporting us to encourage kindness, empathy and respect. Our senior staff are on the playground each and every day, and in the rare event that a child feels bullied, our children tell us that they know who to go to for help. In addition, we encourage children to understand that there are no bystanders – and we must all 'Challenge, Support and Report'.

You can support Kindness Week by discussing ways in which being kind can make the world a better place for everybody and how we can avoid saying or doing things that upset others. We believe that there is much kindness in the world and we are very lucky to have such wonderful children, staff and community support.

Thank you for your continued support in this important area of learning.

Yours sincerely,

Cath Crossley
Headteacher