



Newsletter

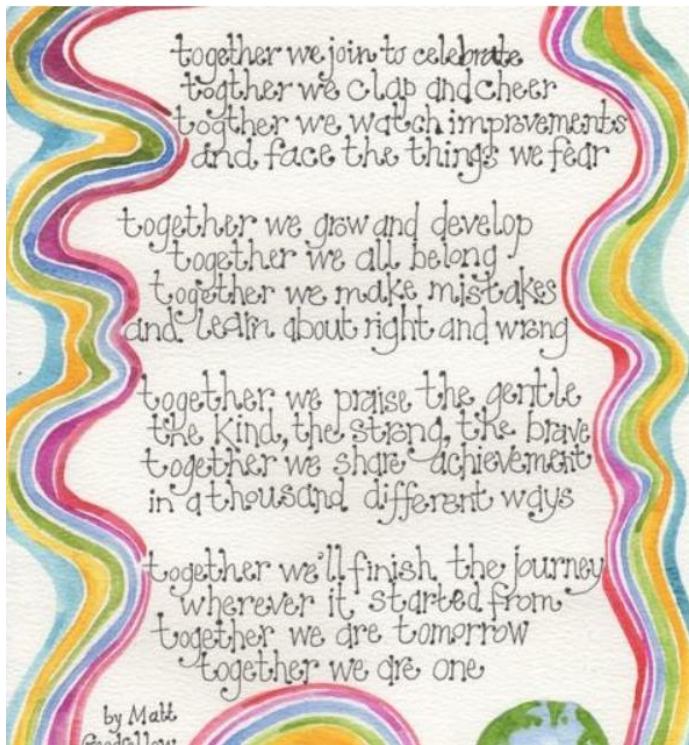
Monday 6th February 2023

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Children's Mental Health Week



This year's theme for Mental Health Week is "Let's Connect" and in assembly this morning we have been thinking about the ways in which being connected helps us feel valued and positive. We also listened to Matt Goodfellow read his wonderful poem "Together".

We are inviting the children to take part in a Trust wide competition to create a poster celebrating the power of being connected. It's absolutely fine for parents to offer ideas and help but we will be looking for the children's own work as much as possible. Don't forget to include the wording "Let's Connect" plus the Place2Be and Victorious Trust logos and check any wording is spelled correctly.

Cartridge paper is available from the school hall and all entries are to be returned to school by Friday 10th February.

You can find out more about Children's Mental Health Week [here](#).

**Children's Mental Health Week
Poster Competition**

Your poster must include:

- The theme words 'Let's Connect'
- How connecting can help children's mental health.
- Place to Be Logo
- The Victorious Academies Logo

Competition Information:

- One winner per Trust School
- Only one entry per child
- Child's Name / Class and School on the back
- This can be created by any way you wish. For example hand crafted, or computer.
- Entries will be judged by Karen Burns, Nicky Wise and Leanne Frankish

**All entries must be submitted by
Friday 10th February 2023**



Safer Internet Day: Tuesday 7th February 2023

Internet Safety is an important part of our school curriculum and we regularly teach the children about how they can safely navigate and benefit from being on-line. Families also play an important role in keeping children safe on line through maintaining open communication. See the posters below for more top tips about keeping children safe on-line.



Top tips for parents of under 7s

These top tips have been written for you (parents and carers) to share, and talk about, with your children. It's never too early to talk about life online!

This Safer Internet Day make space for...

■ **Make space for enjoying time online together**

Play games, watch videos, and learn new skills with your child. Share what you are doing online and talk about what they like doing online. Show your child how great a space the internet can be and all of the ways you can use it as a family.

▲ **Make space for talking about the online world from an early age**

Show your children the amazing things they can do on the internet, before they begin to use it independently. The earlier you talk about the online world together, the easier these conversations become as they grow up.

● **Make space for using the internet to build key skills**

Why not find fun and educational games to play together, or watch videos about topics your child is interested in? The internet is a great space to practice key online safety skills like keeping your personal information safe and asking for help when you need it.

◆ **Make space for setting clear boundaries about tech use**

Establish expectations that encourage meaningful use of technology, in the same way you set boundaries in other areas of your children's lives. It might be no tech at dinner, blocks on certain sites, or only using devices when there is an adult in the room. Discuss these with your family, and review and adapt them as time passes and their internet usage changes.

✦ **Make space for familiarising yourself with safety tools**

There are loads of amazing tools and organisations to support you in keeping your child safe online. Explore the different privacy settings and [parental controls](#) available to you, and know [how to report](#) inappropriate content. These can all help make the internet a safer place for your children.

■ **Make space for conversations about what to do if something goes wrong**

Reassure your child that they can always come to you if something makes them feel uncomfortable or upset while they are online. You may also like to talk to your children about putting devices down, turning them over, or pausing content if they see something they don't like.



Top Tips for Parents and Carers

These top tips have been written for you (parents and carers) to help you support your child to stay safe and happy online.

This Safer Internet Day make space for...

■ **Make space for regular conversations about life online**

Talk openly and frequently about what you are doing online and encourage your child to do the same. Talk about the positive experiences you can have online, share what you have done when you have come across content you did not want to, and how you dealt with the situation.

▲ **Make space for enjoying and exploring the online world together!**

Play games, watch videos, and express an interest in your child's online life. Celebrate all the opportunities that technology has to offer, and show them what a great space the internet can be when used responsibly.

● **Make space for working as a family to agree expectations for going online**

Talk to your family about the role technology plays in your lives. Establish rules and expectations that encourage meaningful use of technology, in the same way you set boundaries in other areas of your children's lives. It's important to review these regularly and adapt them for each member of your family.

◆ **Make space for learning about the apps, games and websites your child is using**

There are lots of tools and guides to support you with keeping your child safe on whatever apps, games and websites they are using. Research age ratings, privacy settings, and safety features (like the block and report button) so that you are best placed to help your child should anything go wrong.

✳ **Make space for supporting and reassuring your child if things go wrong**

Remind your child they can talk to you about anything. If something goes wrong, listen and respond with reassurance and kindness and stay calm. Work with your child to find solutions to the problem, perhaps by using the block and report tools or seeking advice from your child's school.

Water in Schools

We encourage children to drink as much plain water in school as they want. We want every child to have a "school uniform" style water bottle which are available from the school office for just £1.00 each. Going forward we won't be allowing other styles of bottle in school including the currently very fashionable "Air

Up” bottles. These are lovely items, but very distracting in the classroom where we want the children to focus on their learning.

Thank you.

Parents Evening Appointments Week Beginning Monday 13th February

Parents Evening Appointments are now “live” on Arbor. Do book in and come along to chat to your child’s teacher about how they are progressing in school. If you can’t make any of the dates offered, please message your child’s class teacher as soon as possible to let them know.

The school bookshop will be running in the hall during parents evening week – all books are brand new and heavily discounted at just £2.00 each.

There will be no after school clubs next week.

Attendance: How can you help at home?

We know that every parent wants their child to achieve as well as they possibly can at school. However, if your child has low attendance they will be missing out on many important parts of their education.

Every single day missed at school equals a gap in your child’s learning. It is very hard for children to catch up with their classmates when they have missed vital parts of their learning. It can also cause problems with friendships as while your child is away, groups may change. This in turn can lead to your child feeling lonely and unhappy, and worried about coming back to school. A vicious cycle of poor attendance, reluctance to attend school and gaps in learning can so easily become established and is very hard to break.

Studies show that by increasing attendance by just 1%, schools can improve attainment by over 5%. Please help us and your children by ensuring their attendance remains above 95% allowing them to achieve their full potential.

- Good attendance habits should be established as early as possible. Young children are much easier to influence than older ones so establish a good routine from the start.
- Regularly check your own child’s attendance record on Arbor and if it falls below 95%, act immediately to improve it.
- Talk regularly with your child about school and how they feel about it. Take any worries seriously but also remain positive and supportive of the school system.
- Contact school as soon as possible to tell us why your child is absent and when you expect them to return. Please also send an email on their return to school to explain their absence.
- Only grant days at home for GENUINE illness (you will know!). Weakness now will lead to problems later.
- Get your child back into school as soon as they are feeling better
- Try to make medical appointments outside school time.
- Arrange for a friend to take your child to school if you or a sibling are ill –it’s not fair to prevent a well-child from learning.
- Avoid taking holidays in term time.
- Know the routines of the school day to avoid issues (i.e. have they got their homework, their brass instrument, their swimming kit etc).
- Help your child to get everything ready the night before e.g. uniform, reading book, packed lunch etc.
- Establish a good bedtime routine so your child can sleep well, get enough sleep and make mornings less of a struggle.
- Set an alarm – rushing is unsettling.
- Allow plenty of time for the journey to school so you arrive before the gates open at 8.40 am.
- Praise and reward good attendance.

Congratulations to Chestnut Class who had the highest overall attendance in school last week and as a reward will be on “first sitting” for lunch each day next week.

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to last “Values” week’s stars who are:

Orchard	Independent	Spencer has been organizing his own maths resources ready each morning and spending time researching his project learning on his Chrome Book.
Acorns	Independent	Priya came up with her own ideas for our design activity this week and independently selected the materials she needed.
Birch	Independent	Delilah drives her own learning both in school and at home
Willow	Independent	Eliza works independently even when she finds herself in “the learning pit” – she gives 100% to get herself out again.
Holly	Articulate	Riley is confident in expressing his own opinions and confident when explaining his ideas to others.
Chestnut	Articulate	Eva is confident and articulate in expressing her thoughts and opinions to adults and children alike.
Elm	Responsible	Thiyosh takes control of his own learning and always works hard to achieve his best.
Ash	Responsible	Sasha takes responsibility for her own learning and asks lots of questions to further her knowledge.
Oak	Responsible	Grace is working exceptionally hard in all aspects of the curriculum and is determined to achieve highly,

In our last assembly we celebrated reading across school and our reading stars were:

Acorns	Elliot reads constantly at home and is making great progress in RWI in school.
Birch	Hugo is a consistent and fluent reader.
Willow	Thomas has a great attitude to reading, and we are now seeing the impact through the sophisticated vocabulary and phrasing he is applying to his written work.
Holly	Alaska ensures she reads regularly at home and as a result is becoming increasingly fluent and expressive.
Chestnut	Amber makes sure she reads at home every evening and always brings her book back into school. She is now an enthusiastic reader.
Elm	Jacob reads all the time at home and makes super contributions in our “Reading Explorers” lessons in school.
Ash	Jack reads all the time and is whizzing through the Lexia levels too.
Oak	Noah has really connected with this week’s reading text, “On Your Bike”. He has made links with his own experiences to infer the deeper meaning within the text.

This week we introduced a new award: Maggie the school dog’s “Kindness Award”. Each week Maggie (supported by school staff!) will choose one child whose kindness has really impressed us. Our first winner was Grace and her certificate read:

Grace shows kindness towards other children every day when she volunteers to help them at lunchtimes, never asking for any recognition or reward. She has also spent time at home researching additional learning needs so she can offer the best possible support to our Orchard children. Grace personifies kindness and compassion in everything she does.

As her reward, Grace will be spending a lot of time with Maggie next week, walking her on the school field, grooming her and helping Ms Sutherland to train her. Very well done, Grace!

Kindest regards,

Deborah Meredith

Dates for your Diary	
Tuesday 7 th February 23	Acorns and Orchard visit to Dinting Church
Thursday 9 th February	Boys Football Team take part in Primary Stars tournament
Friday 10 th February 23	Girls Football Team take part in Primary Stars tournament
Friday 10 th February 23	Year 3 Family Dinner Day: 12.30
W/B Monday 13 th Feb 23	Parent Teacher meetings this week – No clubs this week
Wednesday 15 th Feb 23	Year 4 field trip to Manor Park – Group A
Thursday 16 th Feb 23	Year 4 field trip to Manor Park – Group B
Friday 17th February 23	School closes for Spring half term holiday
Monday 27th February 23	School Opens for Spring Term 2
Friday 3 rd March 23	Year 2 Family Dinner Day: 12.15
Friday 10 th March 23	Year 1 Family Dinner Day: 12.15
Friday 17 th March 23	Reception Family Dinner Day: 12.00
Tuesday 21 st March 23	Acorns and Orchard trip to Hartley's Garden Centre and Pony Patch
Wednesday 22 nd March 23	Acorns and some Orchard children Easter Experience
Thursday 23 rd March 23	Year 3 and remaining Orchard children Easter Experience
Thursday 23 rd March 23	Year 5 First Aid Training in school
Tuesday 28 th March 23	Year 2 trip to St. Anne's
Wednesday 29 th March 23	Year 1 Bus Tour of Manchester
Friday 31st March 23	School closes for Easter holiday
Monday 17th April 23	School Opens for Summer Term 1
Wednesday 19 th April 23	Year 6 visit to Stockport Air Raid Shelters
Tuesday 25 th April 23	Acorns and Orchard trip to Peak Wildlife Park
Thursday 27 th April 23	Year 3 visit to Heaton Park Synagogue
Monday 1st May 23	School closed – Bank Holiday
Thursday 4 th May 23	Year 5 Ancient Greece workshop in school
Monday 8th May 23	School closed – Coronation Weekend
Tuesday 9 th May 23	Year 6 SATS week
Friday 19 th May 23	Year 4 Ancient Egypt workshop in school

Monday 22 nd May 23	Class Photographs
Thursday 25th May 23	School closes for Summer Half Term holiday
Monday 5th June 23	School Opens for Summer Term 2
Wednesday 7 th to Friday 9 th June 23	Year 6 residential trip to Kingswood Centre in Penistone.
Thursday 8 th June 23	Reception Acorns trip to Formby Beach
Wednesday 28 th June 23	Year 5 trip to Alton Towers
Tuesday 4 th July 23	Year 4 "Come and Play with the Halle" concert in Manchester
Wednesday 5 th July 23	Year 2 trip to Skipton Castle
Thursday 6 th July 23	Year 3 trip to "Crocky Trail"
July (tbc)	Year 1 Canal Boat Trip
Friday 21st July 23	School Closes for Summer Holiday