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Head Teacher: Miss Melanie Scull

Friday 10th January 2025

Week 16,

Happy New Year! And welcome back to all of our children for a new term in 2025! It's the start of the Spring Term and the wintry weather is definitely kicking in. We hope that you all had a lovely couple of weeks, feel relaxed and refreshed and ready for the new challenges ahead.

Can I start by saying how overwhelmed all of the staff here at Chase Side were by the generosity of our parents in giving cards and gifts to us in the lead up to Christmas. It is extremely kind of you all and very much appreciated by all of us... so thank you.

This week we started our weekly Friday Coffee Mornings (in the Winter Hall from 9am) it was lovely to see so many families represented this morning, we were able to discuss a range of concerns which is always much easier face to face as sometimes emails and texts (with only 160 characters) lose the tone and purpose of the message. Today we were able to have one of our Governing Body with us and in the future, we plan to have a range of guest speakers who can provide information about services that may be of interest to you. Thank you to FOCS who are providing the Tea and Coffee while we are trailing these meetings.

One of the items discussed at the coffee morning was the best way to raise issues of any nature in the school:

- 1) In the first instance, Parents should raise these issues or concerns with the Class Teacher who will deal with them immediately and respond in a timely manner.
- 2) However, if the matter is of a more personal issue, then it can be raised with the Family Support Advisor or School Councillor, who will again deal with these in a timely manner.
- 3) Repeat concerns or issues of a more serious nature can be discussed with the Senior Leadership Team (Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher), who will follow the appropriate school policy and give feedback to parents in a timely manner.
- 4) If at any point you are not happy with how issues or concerns have been dealt with, we do have a complaints procedure on our website which you can follow to raise your issue or concern further.

The school also relies on the Local Authority for additional support.

Please note that issues related to racism, bullying, gender, disability or other protected characteristics will be reported to Governors in our Termly Full Governing Body Meeting and the Governors are informed about the nature and number of incidents throughout the school that had occurred in that term. Of course, more serious incidents may be reported to the Police.

The school's policies and procedures are set out on our school website and I'd like to draw your attention to the Anti Bullying, Behaviour, Inclusion and Equality policies.

As some of you will know there were isolated incidents recently; the first was successfully dealt with by the Class Teacher but after the second incident, dealt with by the Deputy Headteacher, extra PSHE activities, covered by a range of staff, were made to reinforce and uphold the values of our school and celebrate our similarities and differences. I have met with the families concerned to discuss these issues and find an appropriate way forward. The Governing Body was also informed and advice has been sought from the Local Authority and we are waiting for a response.

As a school we pride ourselves on our values and how the children and staff demonstrate them, personally I stand by our 'Stronger Together' motto and hope that this information clarifies any confusion.

This week we held the Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) workshops for parents from Year 2 up to Year 6. They were attended by all year groups and all questions were answered in full. The sessions will be delivered to the children in the week of 20th – 24th January by their respective class teachers at some point in this week, they will confirm the dates in their weekly email nearer the time. All of the information is on the website (under Parent Workshop Presentations) and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Next week sees the return of our Ocean Maths sessions! Just a reminder, these sessions are an opportunity for parents to come into school and see a maths lesson in their child's class. We have started the cycle again so that means that next week we have Year 6 Ocean Maths. Skelton have their session on Tuesday 14th January at 9.10am and Castle have theirs on Thursday 16th January at 9.10am. It would be great to see as many Year 6 parents as possible as this will be their final Ocean Maths session!

After some technical issues (due to software updates over the Christmas holiday) we were able to get the club forms out on the website, the deadline for booking your child on a club is 9am on Monday 13th January.

Stronger Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Scull', written in a cursive style.

Melanie Scull