



Victoria Park
Primary Academy

School newsletter published bi-weekly (#20) 07.10.22

Safeguarding, support and School Values.

This week's edition aims to share some of the resources in use by our pastoral team, and some of the language and values used regularly around school

World Mental Health Day, Monday 10 October We'll be recognising this in assemblies and in classrooms next week—sharing what it is to feel sad, happy, emotional, how to recognise these feelings in others, and how to share coping strategies. We'll look at different stories (including The Colour Monster and Conker the Chameleon). To learn more about Mental Health in children, or how best to access support when talking to young ones I'd recommend the long list of agencies at the end of this [article](#).

Keeping Children Safe—the NSPCC. Nurses and practitioners visited school this week and spoke to children in year 2 about [PANTS](#). Helping children to understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell a trusted adult if anything makes them feel upset or worried. Mrs Mahal and Ms Hoole are two designated adults in school that are always available for children to approach. They'll be visiting Reception and new all pupils over the next few weeks to make sure all children are familiar with them and their roles.

School internet sites (and child age restrictions): It's important for parents to know the websites used in school, the challenges of social media and how to talk to children about staying safe online. Again the [NSPCC](#) have sound advice but I think the [guides](#) on National Online Safety.com are the clearest to follow.

The websites in frequent use in school include: Times Tables Rockstar, Reading Plus, Oxford Owl, Showbie, MyMaths and Class Dojo. Though some include competitive aspects we have limited capacity for 'socialising' out of school. Many, if not all, of the main social media websites have age limits starting from 13 years old, to prevent children being exposed to some of the known challenges to Mental Health and wellbeing: cyberbullying, social anxiety and exposure to content that is not age appropriate. If you have any concerns as parents, please discuss these with your teachers or Mrs Mahal as Designated Safeguard Lead.

FIDES: Hopefully all children are well aware of our trust values and should be able to share and explain these to you, (feel free to test them), but we use these daily in conversations with each other and to make help make decisions that effect the school.

Loyalty by **Focusing on family**

Tenacity by **Insisting on excellence**

Kindness by **Doing good as you go**

Courage by **Embracing innovation**

Brilliance by **Seizing Success**



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Attendance: Whole school attendance was 93.9% last week. We'll continue to track this and support families to improve this to achieve our continued school target of over 96%.

Visits and events: Thank you to Mrs Kehla and the families from Reception who attended the phonics and early reading workshop this week. The turnout was amazing. We look forward to sharing the Rocket Phonics Reading books with the children.

6JD delivered an emotive assembly on current international conflicts, and 5RG welcomed in families to share their reading session.

Next week is the turn of **6MC** to welcome guests in to watch their class assembly on Wednesday morning, and families from **5SB** to visit their classroom in the afternoon.

Volunteer open day: Thank you to families and friends who have applied to become a volunteer in school, Ms Secker should have contacted all adults to invite them to provide their evidence for DBS checks and to attend our open and selection day on Monday 17 October.

With best wishes

Mr Reed.