

Featherstone Wood Primary School

Featherston Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG2 9PP
Tel: 01438 235550 Fax: 01438 235559



Head Teacher – Louise Shuttleworth

26th January, 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over my time as Head Teacher at Featherstone Wood we have undertaken a great deal of work to support pupils emotional wellbeing and I wanted to take some time to share this with you. We have introduced the following: -

Mindfulness time in classes

Yoga

Nurture lunch club

Nurture interventions - 1-1 and groups

Baseline assessment and tracking of the impact on support

Surgery sessions with parents to discuss needs and future actions

Peer mentors and mediators

Behaviours skills for learning

Play therapist and Art therapist for 1 day a week each

Family support worker - 1-1, groups, class work and supporting families

Individual behaviour plans as required

Staff attend GP, CDC, EP, SALT sessions

Pupil voice is now regular across the school in a variety of ways.

This is just a handful of initiatives that are now part of our standard care for our families. We are very proud that this has helped us to move into the top 10% nationally for KS1 reading results. Progress of pupils across the school based on their starting point is good and improving and has moved us to the top 60% nationally. In some cases in KS2 our progress was higher than the national and county %. Our Early Years GLD, Year 1 phonics results and KS1 results are all increasing year on year. This has been greatly helped by the introduction of

Storytime Phonics across the EY and KS1.

Our staff are dedicated to this school and the children and spend hours providing high quality learning experiences and motivating our children to become positive life-long learners. I am sure you all feel as proud of our school and our children as we do.

Safeguarding

It is becoming harder to keep ourselves and our children safe with the vast changes in technology and social media. Here are a few tips: -

- Adults need to be kept informed of the latest issues and how to protect their children
- Cover up web cams when not using them. They are easily hacked and turned on at inappropriate times.
- Change your passwords every 2 weeks before they become embedded in your computer memories, making them easy to hack.
- Make sure you regularly check that your location tracking is switched off on all devices.
- Look out for changes in your children - secretive, sensitive, do they have gifts that you were not aware of? Are they coming home late? Are their routines changing? Do they have new friends?
- If you find inappropriate content on your child's devices take it to the police, do **not** forward it to **any** device as that is a criminal offence.



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- Download apps for parents that alert you when there is some suspicious activity on your child's account
- Be aware of places that children can be targeted - the leisure centre, shops, train stations, McDonalds and other popular places with young people. Anywhere that has free Wi-Fi!
- Make sure your child knows not to take gifts from any 'new friends' cigarettes can be drugged, phones can contain tracking devices and never get in a car with anyone, no matter how posh and sporty the car is.



Did you know, if the contract is in your name, you are responsible for anything accessed or sent from it.



Did you know that it is illegal to send any 'sexting' images? Even if you are sending them to your husband/wife/partner it is still illegal. Once an image is out there you have lost control of it and anyone can use it for any purpose they choose.

We will be organising further information sessions for parents but in the meantime visit **Enough Abuse** for extra guidance and support. School staff are also here to offer advice if you are uncertain or concerned. Remember if things don't feel right seek help, trust your gut.

SEN/Pastoral Parent Surgeries

Please see below the dates of the next parent surgeries for this term:-

SEN (with Mrs R. Smith):

Wednesday, 31st January – 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.

Tuesday, 20th February – 2.00 to 3.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 21st March – 2.00 – 3.30 p.m.

Pastoral (with Mrs A. Handysides):

Thursday, 22nd February – 2.00 – 3.30 p.m.

Thursday, 22nd March – 2.00 – 3.30 p.m.

If you would like to book an appointment to see either of the above, please call in at the School Office to book.

Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database (HAND)

The Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database (HAND) gives free information for parents and children with additional needs about how to apply for short breaks, free courses for parents, inclusive activities, support groups and much more. The latest edition of HAND news is available online at:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/handnews.

Star Learners

We are very proud of our Star Learners who, this week are:-

Reception - Maicey White
 Year 1 - Romy Ambrose
 Year 2 - Neve Barnard
 Year 3 - Margaret Adesina
 Year 4 - Jayden Cullen
 Year 5 - Deavion Selby-Straker
 Year 6 - Rhia Shaw



PE Star Learners

Our PE Star Learners this week are Romy Ambrose, Year 1 and D.J. Faulkner, Year 5.



Romy was awarded the trophy for always trying her best and helping others.

D.J. received the trophy for good behaviour and trying his best.



During assembly this morning special mention was made of the following children in Year 6. We had visitors in school during the week and the childrens' positive and polite manner were commented upon:

Well done to:-

Ben, Roanne, Mia, Ishe, Simba, Megan and Lucian.



Attendance Trophy

The Attendance Trophy has been won by Year 1 this week with 99.2%. Well done Year 1!



Lost Property

We have arranged for lost property boxes to be placed in the Early Years Unit, Year 1/2 and in KS2.



The School Council are holding a second hand uniform sale on Friday, 9th February, 3.00 to 3.45 p.m. Weather permitting the sale will be outside the School Office. All items 50p.

Shephall Residents' Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Shephall Residents' Group will take place on Wednesday, 14th February, 6.30 for a 7.00 p.m. start. The meetings are held at the Shephall Centre. All welcome.

Dates for your Diary

6th February – Parents Evening

7th February – Valentines Disco

9th February – Term ends

12th – 16th February – Half term

19th February - Children back to school

9th March – Mother's Day Sale

19th March – Spelling Bee Heats in class

28th March – Spelling Bee Final –
9.00 a.m.

28th March – Exhibition Day

28th March - Term ends

29th March - Inset Day

Summer Term:

16th April - Term starts

14th to 18th May – SAT's Week Year 6

21st to 24th May – SAT's week Year 2

24th May – End of term

25th May - Inset Day

28th May – 1st June - Half term

4th June - Children back to school

6th to 8th June – PGL Trip

11th to 15th June – Year 1 phonics check

15th June – Father's Day Sale

23rd June – Summer Fair

6th July – Sports Day

16th July – Y6 Leavers Party

20th July – Leavers Assembly

20th July - Term ends 2.00 p.m.

23rd July - Inset Day

24th July - Occasional Day

25th July - Occasional Day

26th July - Occasional Day

27th July - Occasional Day

Louise Shuttleworth
Headteacher