

# Giffard Park Primary School

‘Success Starts Here’



## 15 February 2019

Spring Term 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a fabulous first half of the Spring Term and as usual we have a number of new items to share with you.

### **Federation**

We are pleased to announce Giffard Park officially federated with Pepper Hill and Stanton School on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Collectively our group of schools will be known as the MK Sapphire Federation.

This will allow all three schools to work together closely; share expertise, resources and knowledge. There is one Governing Body, which has parent governors from all three schools. Miss Nicholson will be the Executive Head of the Federation and will work closely with Miss Donoghue, Headteacher of Giffard Park, to ensure the best possible opportunities for our children.

### **Staffing update**

Mrs Smith will be leaving us at the end of this term; we wish her all the best for the future and thank her for her hard work. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Reynolds who will be teaching the class alongside Mrs Clarke. Congratulations are in order for Miss Rose, who is getting married at half term.

### **Celebration Assemblies**

On Friday afternoons, we hold our weekly Celebration Assembly. This is a time where we celebrate children's achievements from both inside and outside of school, Remarkable readers, SMART awards, Class Attendance award and Student of the Week. It has been wonderful to welcome so many parents to this assembly and we are grateful for your support in celebrating with your child. If your child is chosen for the Student of the Week you can expect a text message from the school office to invite you to attend the assembly. We look forward to inviting more parents in for this wonderful celebration as the year progresses.

### **Our values**

We expect the highest possible standards of behaviour from all pupils and in order to achieve this we have established a School Charter. The SMART Charter is used across the school with all pupils from Foundation to Year 6 and sets out the attitudes and values that we believe underpin the ethos of our school:

**SMART** learners are

<b>S</b> ensitive	Kind, gentle and helpful to others. We don't hurt people or their feelings.
<b>M</b> otivated	Hard workers who have a go. We don't waste time or give up.
<b>A</b> ttentive	Good listeners who concentrate. We listen to instructions and don't interrupt.
<b>R</b> esponsible	Careful with property and nature. We don't damage or waste things.
<b>T</b> ruthful	Honest. We always tell the truth.

This half term we are focusing on the value of being **truthful and sensitive**.

(Please see our website for a copy of our behaviour policy.)

## Growth mindset

As you will already know at Giffard Park we have created a positive learning culture based on children and adults having a 'growth mindset'. Through this children develop an understanding of how they learn best and also a positive 'can do' attitude when approaching new challenges. Our children are learning how to grow into independent learners who are willing to strive, even when learning is not easy. At Giffard Park when children are faced with new challenges they will keep persevering and say: "I can't do it **yet**."

### How can parents help support?

To help us establish a growth mindset culture, you should begin by praising your children for **effort** and **achievement** rather than ability, and using the language of being brave, learning, challenge and valuing mistakes.

Avoid using the word 'clever'. Praise to young children reinforcing 'cleverness' or intelligence gives the message – to get approval you need to master new things quickly, with little effort both of which will earn you the clever label. It creates a fear of failure and the unwillingness to take risks.

People with a fixed mindset avoid challenging tasks for fear of failure and therefore miss many valuable learning opportunities.

Our language tells children what we believe and value.

### Growth mindset praise:

'Good it's making you think – that's how your brain is growing.'

'Everytime you practise, you're making connections in your brain stronger.'

'You're good at things because you like them and you work hard at them.'

You can use this mistake. Think about why it didn't work and learn from it.'

' You can't do it **yet**!'

Successful Learning means using the learning powers.

### The learning powers

<b>Concentrate</b>	Manage distractions, do one thing at a time, plan and think it through, get lost in the task
<b>Don't give up</b>	Work hard, practice lots, keep going, try new strategies, ask for help
<b>Be cooperative</b>	Listen to others, say when you understand, explain things to help others, be tolerant
<b>Be curious</b>	Ask questions, notice things, ask 'What if?...'
<b>Have a go</b>	Have a growth mindset, don't worry if it's wrong, learn from mistakes, be excited to try new things
<b>Use your imagination</b>	Be creative, let your imagination go
<b>Keep improving</b>	Try to be better than last time, keep reviewing your work, improve one thing at a time
<b>Enjoy learning</b>	Feel proud of your achievements, imagine your intelligence growing, know you can do it if you have input and practice.

**Further reading:** Carol Dweck:

<http://mindsetonline.com/howmindsetaffects/parentsteacherscoaches/index.html>

<http://www.mindsetworks.com/>

### Attendance and punctuality

Did you know?

- 95% = 10 days absent a year
- 90% = 20 days absent a year
- 85% = 30 days absent a year
- 80% = 40 days absent a year

### **'Every minute counts':**

<b>If your child is late every day:</b>	<b>In a year your child would lose the following days of education:</b>
5 minutes late	3 days
10 minutes late	6.5 days
15 minutes late	10 days
20 minutes late	13 days
30 minutes late	19.5 days

We are working closely with the Attendance Team at Milton Keynes Council to monitor our attendance. Please ensure your child arrives at school by 8.45am. As you can see from the information above persistent absence or lateness can have a detrimental effect on your child's learning.

### **Communication**

Communication is extremely important to us in helping to support your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please see the class teacher in the first instance. They are the adults who are working closely on a daily basis with your child and any concerns you may have can be quickly resolved. This can often be done at the end of the day at the classroom door. Should you require more time then please make an appointment via Miss Rambini in Reception. Please note that teachers have meetings straight after school on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

Following your appointment should you need further support then you can make an appointment with the Phase Leader appropriate to your child's year group. Again all appointments should be made via Miss Rambini. Our Phase leaders are:

Foundation: Miss Thompson, Years 1 & 2 Mrs Hand, Years 3 & 4 Mrs Kok, Years 5& 6 Mrs Coster, Assistant Headteacher.

In the unlikely event that your concern has not be resolved by the classteacher, the Phase leader or the Assistant Head, then you may wish to make an appointment with the Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Wiles. In the final instance you may wish to make an appointment with myself, which will need to be done via Miss Rambini.

We hope that you all have a lovely, restful half term. We have an INSET day on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 so school is closed on this day.

We look forward to seeing all the children back on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 refreshed for the second half of the Spring term.