Dear Parents

Attendance at school is obviously important, as missed days off school equal missed learning. Having time off for extended holidays during school time, results in chunks of learning being missed. This often impacts negatively on the attainment and progress of your children and it can take them a long time to catch up with the other children in their class. Being given work to take with them on these trips is no substitute to being in school. We do follow Birmingham City Council’s guidance for extended leave (holidays) and, for those periods of absence which the school does not authorise, this can result in fines and possibly court appearances. Unfortunately, we did have two parents who received a combined fine of over £1200 last week. This is a considerable amount of money for anybody. Please think twice before booking extended leave.

On Tuesday, as many of you are aware, we had the BBC filming outside of the school. I know that this disrupted some of your journeys into school. I deeply apologise for the inconvenience this may have caused, however as I’m sure you understand this was beyond our control as a school. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who have approached members of staff to express their support for the No Outsiders programme at Parkfield. We really appreciate your support as we continue with our aim of the No Outsiders project which is to teach tolerance and respect for all.

On Wednesday this week, it was class 2B’s turn to visit the Black Country Museum. Although it was cold (as it has been for each Year 2 class), they remembered to dress up warm. This was a really good trip for the children. They got to visit and see a range of houses and shops, reflecting time periods from as early as the Victorian period to well into the 1900s.

Last week, Mrs Evans sent our SEND questionnaires to selected parents. We have found the responses that we have received so far to be useful in informing our practice in this area. If you have not returned your questionnaire yet, please can you return it to school as soon as possible.

Mr Williams

Thursday 31st January 2019

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 4th February
Class 6S & some of 6O visit to Cosford Conservation

Tuesday 5th February
Class 6B & some of 6O visit to Cosford Conservation

Wednesday 6th February
Class 6P & some of 6O visit to Cosford Conservation

Thursday 7th February
PM Nursery Parent Workshop 2:30 – 3:15

Friday 8th February
AM Nursery Parent Workshop 8:30 – 9:30

Mathletics

Congratulations to 5K, you have the highest score in the school!
Remember, if you are on the leaderboard tell Mr Lewis to get a wonderful prize!

Maisie the mouse

Maisie had between 30 and 50 breadcrumbs.

She counted the breadcrumbs in fours. There were 2 left over.

She counted them in fives. There was 1 left over.

How many breadcrumbs did Maisie have?
MY STATEMENT ON THE
NO OUTSIDERS PROGRAMME AT
PARKFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

by Liam Byrne MP | 28.01.19 | in: Press Release

The No Outsiders programme has for 4 years, taught children that everyone is welcome. It’s been pioneered by one of the greatest schools in the country, at the heart of our community in Birmingham.

As the dad of three children, I know that sex and relationship education is always a subject in which parents rightfully take a close interest – and of course have the option to remove their children from sex education lessons if they wish. Wise schools involve their parents upfront in the development of teaching material, and this is exactly what Parkfield has done every step of the way.

Birmingham was built by people from all walks of life, coming together to live, love, work and build an amazing community. That’s why we believe in “No Outsiders”. There are LGBT people of every race, faith and community. It is our responsibility to let these children know that there is nothing wrong with them. Our goal is to build a city where we support each other in flourishing, feeling safe from fear, hatred and disrespect. And that’s what makes us the greatest city in the world.

We note and welcome that Cllr Idrees issued the following statement this morning:

“Colleagues

Many of you will have seen media reports over the weekend regarding the No Outsiders programme at Parkfield Community School and I wish to apologise for my comments to the Birmingham Mail.

I overstepped the mark in my efforts to state the views of some of the parents, but I fully support Birmingham City Council’s policies in relation LGBT issues. I got it wrong and have already apologised to the Leader of the Council and to the chief whip this morning.

No Outsiders is a programme that has clearly upset some parents – with some threatening to take their children out of school. That is clearly something we all want to avoid and I want to work with both the school and the parents to help us reach a better understanding.

I have never had a problem with the LGBT community and I am proud that Birmingham is an inclusive and tolerant city and there is no place here for homophobia or any other form of discrimination.

The best way to reach an understanding on this issue is to talk and I’m determined to work with both the school and the parents on this.

Regards
Councillor Mohammed Idrees

Alum Rock Ward