



Sandal Castle VA Community Primary School

Headteacher: **Caroline Butterworth**

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Autumn Term

2024

06th September

Earrings In school

A polite reminder about earrings - for health and safety reasons, earrings should be small studs. Please do not allow your child to wear hoops as they are more likely to be ripped out during playtimes. Earrings must NOT be worn during PE lessons. Plasters cannot be worn over earrings- this is Wakefield Council Policy. Thank you for your understanding with this.



Nut Free School Reminder

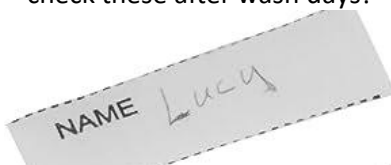
THIS SCHOOL IS
NUT FREE



THANK YOU
for keeping our school safe!

School Uniform Name Labels

Please remember to add names into all of your child's clothing labels. This will significantly reduce the chances of items getting lost. Don't forget to check these after wash days!



Safeguarding Contact

For any Safeguarding concerns please contact

legley@sandal.wakefield.sch.uk

Chair of Governors Message

Firstly, a welcome back after the summer holidays. As a parent of 2 children attending this school, I fully appreciate the mixed emotions returning back to the school routine after a lengthy break... (and it was a relief to see a few others also dashing into the local supermarket on Tuesday night for last minute school uniform and essentials...!)

This September marks an important anniversary for the school as its now 1 year since we welcomed our headteacher; Mrs Butterworth. We were delighted to appoint her to lead the school, particularly after the lengthy period of having an interim headteacher and with a large amount of other senior leadership/staff change.

As a governing board, our role is to provide an oversight to the school, ensuring the school budget is allocated appropriately and well spent, that the standards of the curriculum are ambitious, and monitored, the organisational structure and leadership are well set up and all underpinned by high quality of teaching.

As parents, carers and staff, you'll be aware the school had been through significant change over the last 2-3 years, and accompanied with it, various challenges. At times it may have been difficult to understand some of changes or decisions and rationale, but the bedrock of this has always been to prioritise the strong foundations and future for the children at Sandal Castle Primary, and working closely with the local authority, we have been well supported to ensure the school is stable and well set up as it moves forward into the next few years.

The school's refreshed Vision and values of "Building strong futures together" was the result of joint contribution from children, staff, parents, governors, the diocese and community, and really reflects the inclusive approach and ethos of the school. I joined the 'focus group' with children and staff and it was very humbling to hear the children talk with passion and conviction about the values they regarded as most relevant; 'resilience, understanding, inclusivity, creativity and respect'.

As a school, there is still a lot of work to be built upon, to raise and support the progress of standards and expectations, and continue being ambitious for our children, in a supportive and inclusive way.

It's also crucial we continue to listen and understand feedback and concerns and we appreciated the honesty in the parent survey feedback -all of which has been built into the school development plan for this year. In particular, communication (to parents) was a consistent area for development, from day-to-day announcements and arrangements, to curriculum focus or how you can support your children's learning at home etc. The school is actively taking this on board and looking at immediate and longer -term improvements.

Looking ahead to this year, with your support, the school will continue striving to provide a safe, nurturing, spiritual and inspirational learning environment.

Please help the school with role modelling the values and where you have feedback, sharing it quickly and directly with school.

We also look forward to meeting and chatting with you at parents evening again, where we'll have governors available for face to face 'drop in'.

Kindest Regards,
Rowena