

Kindness and Co-operation	Thankfulness	Friendship and Sharing	Respect	Unity	Responsibility
Hope and Peace	Patience and Perseverance	Trust and Honesty	Happiness	Courage	



## Newsletter

Friday 17th November 2023

This week's House Winners



**Congratulations!**

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

This week has been full of opportunities that fall under the 'wider curriculum', lessons that are important to the children in terms of developing their values and behaviour choices that will enable them to judge situations they may find themselves in years to come. Our

values are key to us and respect is a very big part of this. This was demonstrated at the weekend by all who attended the Remembrance Day parade on Sunday morning and we were grateful to our representatives from the school parliament who took part: Brooke, Charlie, Lottie and Ennis were excellent ambassadors of our school's values as they braved the cold and rain. It is always a proud moment to witness our young people take part with such respect for the many who gave their lives.

Then this week we have celebrated Anti-Bullying week. This is a key event in our school calendar and there has been some great discussion happening across the year groups with the focus being on the key message that it is vital that we share with trusted adults if we see or hear bullying take place. There is plenty of information over the page so you can see in more detail what each class has done.

It was also good to see a number of you at the Online Safety meeting last night which was led by the Cyber Protect and Prevent officer from Bedfordshire Police. It was extremely informative and really gave perspective to the scale with which children and young people interact with technology.

And finally, today has been a very busy day! It has been great to see the children supporting Children in Need by wearing non-uniform - another way of showing our key values; we will share the total raised with you next week though there is still time to donate [here](#) - and it was lovely to see so many of you attend our Open Afternoon this afternoon. I hope the children could talk confidently with you about their learning this week and are able to share the important messages that they have learnt.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

### Health and Safety

This week we are asking you to support us by ensuring your child does not scoot or cycle on the school grounds. They **should not be crossing the car park** and certainly should not be riding on the paths as it is unsafe to do so with so many others on site at the same time. Children who are spotted doing this by staff members will be asked to dismount but if they continue to do so will not be able to bring their bikes or scooters into school.

I have also seen a large number of parents and pupils who are cutting across the car park at pick up and drop off instead of sticking to the paths. Whilst we appreciate this is a more direct route, you are modelling dangerous behaviour to our younger pupils. Our job is to keep them safe and **we would appreciate your support in this too by sticking to the paths please.**

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## Anti-Bullying Week 2023

The week kicked off on Monday with everyone wearing odd socks in order to celebrate our uniqueness - to have fun, to be ourselves and to spread awareness of the key messages of Anti-Bullying week. There were some very colourful feet to be seen but a great way to get the messages across!

In **Reception** we have talked about different scenarios by looking at pictures and deciding if what we could see was friendly, or not friendly behaviour. We then discussed what friendly behaviour might look like. We also designed our own odd socks on Monday using a variety of different media such as crayons and paints.



In **Yew** class the children took part in odd sock day, and have been writing kind compliments and questions to their friends, such as 'would you like to sit next to me at lunch?' and 'you are really good at football'. They have also 'made a noise' about who they can speak to if they see or hear bullying.

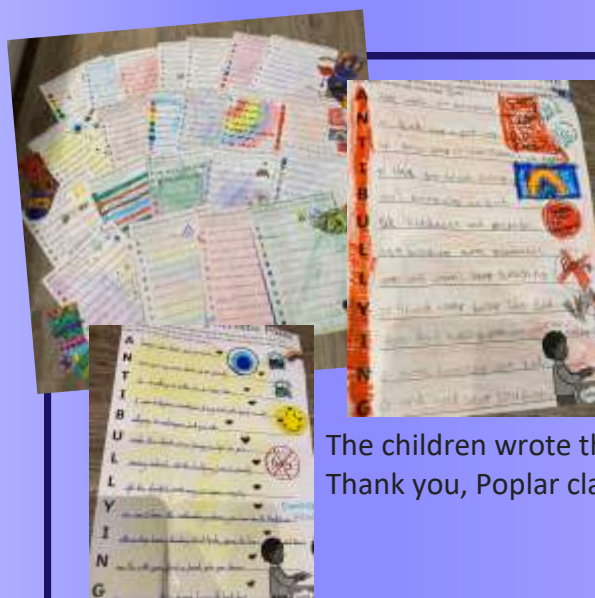
Across the week **Aspen** have been looking at scenarios and have role played a variety of situations of how to get support if someone is being unkind. They did a superb job of acting and did a fabulous job of being the adult that can help too. They went on to write down things that they could say to "make a noise about bullying". Their posters are great and they have selected some wonderful phrases.



**Rowan** have been 'making a noise' by creating posters and their own anti-bullying superhero which had them thinking of reasons why their powers would stop bullying. They have also made rhythms with percussion instruments for the words – power, intent, repetition, hurt and speak up. Along with this, they have thought about answering these questions:

1. How can you speak up and make a stand about bullying?
2. What would you say to someone engaging in bullying behaviour if you saw them in action?
3. What would your message against bullying be?
4. Who can help spread the message and how can we do it?



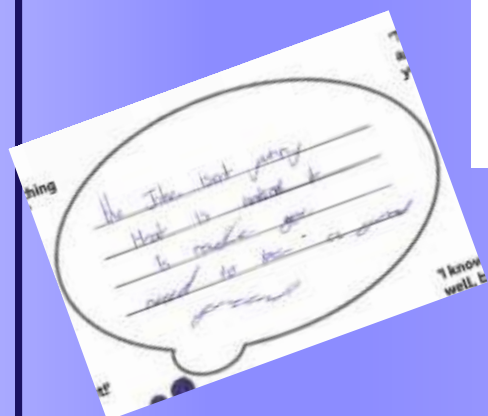


The pupils in **Poplar** class have had a fantastic anti bullying week. They have learned a lot through their reading comprehension. They also took part in the live lesson on the internet. (Please don't ask them about Mrs Gregory's air guitar playing!)

Their own designs of the odd socks are going to look superb on display, alongside the absolutely, amazing anti-bullying, acrostic poems.

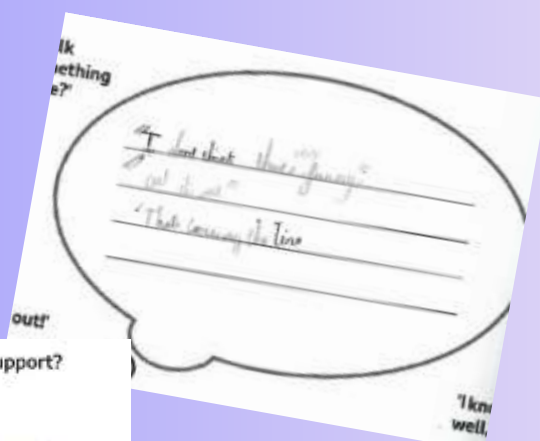
The children wrote these independently, and the quality of their work was outstanding. Thank you, Poplar class for being brilliant this week at "Making A Noise About Bullying."

**Juniper** class has been learning about what is 'banter' and what is bullying. The children had to think about how they could tell someone that 'it is not a joke' anymore. We also got some inspiration from a Year 5 class who rapped about bullying, the children had to compose and write a two line rap and then performed to everyone.



**Activity 3:** How does it feel to give or get support?

It feels like some one is on my side



**Activity 3:** How does it feel to give or get support?

It feels calming and comforting

**Elder** class have been learning about the difference between banter and bullying.

We have defined banter and understand how this can easily become bullying. We all agreed that banter is fun if all those concerned find it fun. We made a 'Bantometer' to measure our feelings if a friend goes too far!



In **Sycamore**, we began our focus of Anti-Bullying week by discussing the importance of anti-bullying week and why there is a need for us to do it every year. We then moved onto our main focus for the week which was **understanding and contrasting bullying with banter**. We deliberated as individuals, as pairs and then as a class before creating definitions for **banter** and for **bullying**. The pupils then had to read through four different scenarios and decide whether these situations were examples of friends playfully exchanging banter or if the examples were of bullying. The children were required to explain using their definitions for support. The final task was to create their own role play scenarios (two), to show both banter and also, where what is labelled as banter has crossed over into bullying.

The pupils of Sycamore have shown sensitivity and compassion and I was a proud teacher listening to their discussions and answers.





## Tree Maintenance Working Party

We are still looking for volunteers who may be able to help us with the task below. Please do fill in the [google form](#) if you think you might be able to help.

We are aware that a number of trees along our boundary are very over-grown and to that end we are looking to form a working party of people who might be interested in donating a couple of hours of their time at a weekend at some point to help with the pruning and trimming to ensure these are maintained and to support our neighbours.

If you are interested and willing to help, please complete the [google form](#). You do not need equipment, green fingers or expertise, but just a desire to help us.

If and when we have a group of volunteers, we will share some dates with you and weather permitting we can make a big difference to our school grounds.

Thank you for your support.

## New Date Alert!

Weather permitting we are holding Carols on the Playground at 3.30pm on Monday 18th December and we hope that you will join us for a festive singalong.

Bring a brolly and wrap up warm!

*If the weather is really bad, this event will be cancelled.*



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**29th November - 6th December** Book Fair

**Thursday 30th November** Grandparent's Breakfast

**Thursday 7th December** Parent Forum

**Tuesday 12th December** Reception Christmas assembly 9.15am

**Tuesday 12th December** 2.30 - 3.30pm Mulberries drop-ins

**Wednesday 13th December** KS1 Christmas assembly 9.15am

**Thursday 14th December** UKS2 Christmas assembly 9.15am

**Friday 15th December** LKS2 Christmas assembly 9.15am

**Wednesday 13th December** Christmas Dinner

**Friday 15th December 11am - 12pm** Mulberries drop-ins

**Monday 18th December 3.30pm** Carols on the Playground (weather permitting)

**Tuesday 19th December** Term Ends

**Wednesday 3rd January 2024** INSET day

**Thursday 4th January** Term starts

**Friday 5th January** Pantomime trip to Stevenage

Term dates for **2024-2025** can be found [here](#).

## Attendance Awards

Week beginning 13th November 2023

The best attendance award is presented to:  
**Rowan and Sycamore class!**

<b>Mulberries</b>	<b>Fir (YR)</b>
89%	91%
<b>Yew (Y1)</b>	<b>Aspen (Y2)</b>
95%	97%
<b>Rowan (Y3)</b>	<b>Poplar (Y4)</b>
98% ★	95%
<b>Juniper (Y5)</b>	<b>Elder (Y6)</b>
94%	89%
<b>Sycamore (Y6)</b>	<b>Our target is 97%</b>
98% ★	