Headteacher NewsLetter

April 22nd 2025- Issue 1



A note from me...

A wonderful first term as Headteacher of a wonderful school.

I feel so privileged to have joined such a passionate, pro-active and supportive community. It really is a pleasure coming to work each day and being part of something so fabulous! The children of Crossgates are so inquisitive, hard-working and honest and these attributes are helping me to form meaningful plans to take Crossgates from strength to strength.

'Book and a Brew' sessions continue to be a favourite of mine; gaining feedback from the children over a hot chocolate has become imperative to informing my next steps as headteacher. I understand that there has been some concern regarding the changes to the 'school prayer'. Many children are very passionate about the prayer and enjoy it being part of their assemblies, some children have expressed concern that their family chose Crossgates for them due to it not having a religious denomination and having a prayer makes them feel uncomfortable, some children feel that their own religion is not represented. I have taken this feedback into account and

Fencing Update

Thank you for bearing with us regarding the rather unsightly fencing at the front of school. We are delighted to have secured funding for permanent, secure fencing and I will keep you updated on progress with this. Thank you for your understanding; the incident that happened over the Easter break in the community further highlights the need for our perimeter to be secure.

Inclusion Focus

We are working hard on inclusion in all areas of school life. We are revising our attendance policy and procedures, our SEND offer, behaviour policy and curriculum to ensure that all of our children feel represented, valued and included.

School Values

Our school values have been formed in response to ongoing evaluation. I feel that they really signify all that we stand for at Crossgates:

Growth- we are all growing and learning in all areas of life, all of the time
Effort- we try our hardest and 'have a go'
Community- our community is at our heart
Compassion- we are caring and look out for one another

A wonderful first term as Headteacher of a wonderful school cont:

made a slight alteration to the prayer so that it is inclusive for all and is used as reflection time during assembly; children are informed that they can use this time to pray if they would like to.

I was saddened to find that a small number of children did not attend school on the day of our Eid celebration. Learning about different religions is part of the National Curriculum and enables us to be informed, compassionate and educated individuals. I am proud of my staff who work hard to ensure that our curriculum is delivered in a memorable and informative manner and I know that the children who attended the celebration learnt lots and had a lot of fun!

All staff are working hard on developing our safeguarding offer. There is extensive support across Rochdale for families and I want to ensure that this is shared and accessed by all who need it.
Staff had an inspirational, informative and emotional twilight training session delivered by 'The Flying Child' where sexual abuse survivor, Sophie Olson, and her team supported us in reflecting upon our professional practice and how we can develop it further, ensuring that we work with humanity and empathy at the heart of all policies. Statistically we know that 1 in 20 children in the UK have been sexually abused. We will always strive to be a safe place for all children, regardless of their experiences.

What a pleasure it has been to be welcomed by you all. Memories from this term include: Quidditch sports, dressing as adjectives for World Book Day, Book and a Brew, a wonderful cross-country event and getting cosy in our slippers!

Thank you for the care and support that you have shown regarding my son being in hospital- certainly not what I had planned for my first term!

I look forward to continuing to work alongside you all as we embark upon the final term of this academic year and beyond.

Kind regards

Mrs Mitchell

Wraparound Update

I know that the changes to the before and after school provision have been unpopular and inconvenient, causing anxiety for some. I can only apologise for this and it was not my intention to cause distress.
I did not know about the arrangements for wraparound care and when I became more informed I liaised with the council who agreed that it was not safe in the format it ran in. Investment in the provision and a clear routine have proven positive with the children who have fedback that they are enjoying the sessions and activities on offer.
We are continuing to develop our offer and will keep you informed.
Please contact Mrs McMahon (Deputy Head) if you have any queries.

Weekly Newletter Update

There will no longer be a weekly newsletter at Crossgates. The reason for this is that it takes the admin team a considerable amount of time and the volume of calls received at the office asking questions that have been answered in the newsletter, tells us that it is not accessed fully. We are exploring other options; a calendar of events will be sent out this week.