



West Park

'A caring school where we put pupils and their achievement first'

West Road
Spondon
Derby
DE21 7BT

Head: **Scott McGregor**
Tel: (01332) 662337
Fax: (01332) 280767
email: info@westpark.derby.sch.uk

13th November 2023

Dear West Park Families

We have had a positive return to school after the half-term break with a very swift transition from Halloween and fireworks to the imminent onset of Christmas. In our household festive songs aren't allowed until 1st December but I am always happy to put on a bit of Wizard or Slade when I am in the car!

During these dark months, it really is a time to knuckle down, work hard and look out for each other. This week is anti-bullying week and Monday 13th November is World Kindness Day. We will be pushing both of these at West Park and getting staff and pupils to reflect on how they treat each other and how a little act of kindness can have such a positive impact on somebody's day.

On Friday 10th November we had our own day of remembrance at the school. All pupils have been part of a special assembly detailing why this day is so significant and how the acts of the few protected freedom and independence for us all. It was brilliant to see staff and pupils wearing their uniforms so proudly on Friday as they moved around our school. On Saturday I had the honour of laying the West Park wreath at the war memorial next to Spondon Village Hall. My little 3-year-old daughter helped me with this and she was amazed by all the soldiers wearing their medals and the 'delicious' poppy cakes that were provided by Co-op Funeral Care.

On Friday 17th November we will be holding our own Children in Need Spotacular event. Pupils and staff will be able to come into school in non-uniform and are asked to wear clothes or accessorise with items that contain spots. Voluntary donations for this event should be given utilising the following link: <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=13050>

Pupils are also encouraged to bring in some loose change on the day to participate in the following events:

- A cake sale at the bottom of T Block stairs.
- Covering a giant Pudsey in coins at Main Reception.
- A penalty shoot out and keepy up challenge in the Sports Hall.
- Guess the number of sweets in the jar
- Live music in the Main Hall at break and lunchtime.

I love days like this at West Park as our pupils always fully engage and cope well with the transition from different activities to purposeful learning in the classroom.

Year 11 have had their first parents' evening of the year as they push towards their mock exams. Our Year 11 pupils have less than 6 months left with us and every day does truly count. Please ensure that your Year 11 child is revising and utilising all of the rich resources that are available at the school.

I have the privilege of touring around our school every day, often showing round prospective parents/carers, city representatives or visitors from other agencies. Everybody that visits, always comments on the calm, purposeful atmosphere around the school and the politeness and engagement exhibited by our wonderful pupils. In a world that can often be fuelled with negativity, it is important to pause and be grateful for what we have. All 1500 children at West Park aren't perfect everyday but everyday is so rewarding as we see our young people flourish and grow.

Take care and be kind to one another.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott McGregor', written in a cursive style.

Scott McGregor
Head