



September 2019 Newsletter - Head Teacher's

A warm welcome to the new families who are joining us this year and a hearty welcome back to our existing parents and children. We hope you have enjoyed the break over the summer and have spent some quality time with each other. This is our first monthly newsletter of this academic year to keep you informed of what's going on in our school.

School Entrance & Car Parking

Thank you for supporting the recent changes implemented for entry and exit to the school via Cherry Street. Safeguarding is of paramount importance to us and by have one point of entry and exit it makes our whole school community much safer. Please ensure you give yourselves enough time in the morning and after school to avoid rush at these peak times. Please can we ask you to respect the surrounding roads by parking appropriately and not parking on the yellow lines in front of the school, this is for everyone's safety.

In addition, please use our Crossing Patrol Officer on Great Brickkiln Street.

Data Protection

In line with GDPR (data protection), Data Collection sheets have been sent to parents for checking and updating your details, we have already had many returned, could the remainder forms be returned to the school by Friday 11th October 2019.

Dates for your Dairy

Date	Events
Wednesday 2 nd October	English Workshop for Year 2 Parents 3.00pm-3.30pm
Friday 4 th October	Monthly Sikhi Class between 3.30pm – 5.00pm
Monday 7 th October	Yom Kippur assembly from 9.00am - 9.30am, Compassion 2 parents only
Wednesday 9 th October	Year 1 Maths Workshop for Parents 3.00pm-3.30pm
Thursday 10 th October	Year 2 Maths Workshop for Parents 3.00pm-3.30pm
Monday 14 th October	Diwali/Bandi Chhor assembly from 9.00am - 9.30am, Compassion 1 parents only Contentment (Y5) trip to visit Cannock Chase Museum
Tuesday 15 th October	Year 6 SATs workshop for parents 3.00pm-3.30pm
Wednesday 16 th October	Special Meal for Diwali
Thursday 17 th October	Last day of half term, finish normal time (inc clubs)
Friday 18 th October – Friday 1 st November	Half Term Holiday
Monday 4 th November	Return back to school for Autumn 2

Safeguarding Contacts



Mr H Dhanjal
(Head Teacher)
**Designated
Safeguarding
Lead (DSL)**



Mr J Gomersall
(Deputy Head
Teacher)
**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)**



Mrs J Brettle
(SENDCO)
**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)**



Mrs S Latif
(Parent Liaison Officer)
**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)**

As our school continues to grow and flourish so does our staff list, as well as our new families, we welcome all new staff to the Nishkam family. A Summary of the classroom staff structure including middle and senior leaders can be seen below:

Class List:

Reception	Truth 1	Mrs Tolley
	Truth 2	Miss Hollinshead
Year 1	Service 1	Miss Price
	Service 2	Mrs Johal
Year 2	Humility 1	Miss Holman
	Humility 2	Miss Gull
Year 3	Compassion 1	Mrs Bains
	Compassion 2	Mr Landers
Year 4	Forgiveness 1	Mrs Chahal
	Forgiveness 2	Miss Dawar
Year 5	Contentment 1	Mr Darby
Year 6	Optimism 1	Miss Kainth

Senior leadership team is:

Mr Dhanjal	Head Teacher
Mr Gomersall	Deputy Head Teacher
Mrs Worthington	Assistant Head Teacher (Maternity Leave)
Mrs Sangha	Assistant Head Teacher (Maternity Cover)

Middle leadership team is:

Early Years Lead	Mrs Tolley
KS1 Phase Leader	Mrs Johal
Lower KS2 Phase Leader	Mr Landers
Upper KS2 Phase Leader	Mr Darby
English Lead	Miss Holman
Maths Lead	Mrs Chahal
Science Lead	Mrs Bing
SENDSCO	Mrs Brettle

Parent Notice Board

Lost Property

The children look so smart in their uniforms and we would like to help parents keep it that way. Please ensure all clothing items are labelled with your child's name, school staff will then work together to return lost items to their owners. Where items are found to be unnamed they will be temporarily kept in school, at the end of each half term any unclaimed items will be donated to the Friends of Nishkam to be re-sold to parents. If your child has lost a unnamed item please ask them to check with their class teacher/school office.

Lunch

As part of the national initiative to ensure children receive a nutritional meal at lunch time, lunch is provided for free until the end of year 2. All food is prepared onsite by our cooks. If you prefer to send a packed lunch please ensure the lunchbox is labelled. All food provided in packed lunches **must** be vegetarian (including no fish and eggs) in line with our school policy. To ensure we can reduce food waste and allow our cooks to prepare the correct quantities, we ask that parents keep their child on the same meal type for the duration of the half term. If there is a need to change, please inform the school office.

For children in KS2 (Year 3/4/5/6) who have to pay for their school meal, please ensure the above rule is adhered to and that there is no changing in meal types during the half-term. Failure to comply may result in incorrect charges being made to your account. Daily checks will also be made on children taking a packed lunch.

Attendance for the month of September (Target 97%)

Class	Truth 1 (Reception)	Truth 2 (Reception)	Service 1 (Year 1)	Service 2 (Year 1)	Humility 1 (Year 2)	Humility 2 (Year 2)
Attendance	94.8%	98.4%	97.3%	95.4%	99.4%	93.7%
Punctuality	100%	99.9%	99.7%	99.6%	99.6%	99.9%
Class	Compassion 1 (Year 3)	Compassion 2 (Year 3)	Forgiveness 1 (Year 4)	Forgiveness 2 (Year 4)	Contentment (Year 5)	Optimism (Year 6)
Attendance	96.9%	97.1%	98.3%	97.6%	95.4%	95.4%
Punctuality	99.6%	99.4%	99.8%	99.2%	99.4%	99.4%

School Attendance

In order for our children to make progress, good attendance is crucial. The school is committed to providing all pupils with a full time education experience that maximises each pupils opportunities and allows each to realise their true potential. We believe that if a pupil is to benefit from education then good attendance is crucial.

The school has introduced many strategies to help support good attendance, children are rewarded with certificates, prizes and incentives for good attendance furthermore they are praised in special attendance assemblies.

Attendance of pupils is monitored from Reception to Year 6 and where we identify frequent absences there will be early intervention from the school. The school will aim to develop and sustain a close collaboration with its families, as we believe that good attendance should be seen as everyone's responsibility. We therefore, ask for your support, if you do have any concerns or wish to discuss your child's attendance, then please do call into the school office and speak with Mrs Latif who is working closely with our families.

Unfortunately we have already had many families taking unauthorised holidays, we are quite concerned regarding the number of requests that have been received for Leave of Absence (Holiday in Term Time). We must remind parents/cares that The Education Act 1996 Section 7 requires parents or guardians to ensure their child receives efficient, full time education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

Parents have a legal and moral responsibility for ensuring children attend school. Please remember that you have 175 days off school, including weekends and school holidays to spend together. We cannot emphasis enough the importance of full time education. Pupils are well settled and are making good progress, please try to understand that taking them out of school will not only jeopardise their learning but it will also hinder their progress.

May we remind our families, the school operates an open door policy. We look forward to your support throughout the academic year.



Be on Time – Quarter to Nine

This Month's Weekly Attendance Award

Week 1: Truth 2 100%

Week 2: Humility 1 100%

Week 3: Optimism and Service 1 99.7%

Week 4: Service 1 100%

Week 5: Humility 1 99.3%

Truth 1 and Truth 2

We would like to welcome and thank all our new families for such a fantastic start to the new term. We are so pleased with how well the children have settled and established their new routine.

We have successfully started our daily Phonics sessions and would like to thank you for your efforts in contributing to this at home. Weekly homework will continue to reflect what the children have learnt during the week, please make an effort to spend time with your child completing this. Do not hesitate to ask a member of staff for support should you need it and remember to use the useful websites that were given out during the Phonics workshop.

Children are enjoying their Maths sessions and are cementing their understanding and application of mathematical concepts using numbers from 1-5.

Please remember to ensure all your children's clothes and belongings are labelled. You can bring in some named wellies and leave them at school in preparation for the Autumnal weather and please send your child with a coat every day.

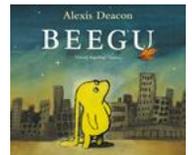
Challenge for this half term: 5 Green Dojos for anyone who joins the Library and sends us a picture via Dojo of them enjoying a book in their local Library! We look forward to a very busy but super exciting year ahead!
EYFS Team :-)

Service 1 and Service

What a fantastic start to the academic year. Pupils have settled into their routines quickly and efficiently. The transition from Reception to Year 1 has been very positive and pupils have happily settled into the busy demands of Year 1.

Pupils have started their daily phonics groups and are already progressing really well. In English they started with the text 'I Want my Hat Back' by Jon Klassen. They were able to describe the characters and retell the story using story maps. The focus has been on sentence structure remembering capital letters, full stops and finger spaces for their sentences. We have now started 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon.

In Maths pupils have been working on Place Value and correctly forming their numbers. They are currently becoming familiar with addition and number sentences and also number bonds.



They have thoroughly enjoyed learning about 'The Great Fire of London' in their History lessons and I am sure they will be able to tell you lots about it. We will be visiting the fire station in the coming weeks, details to follow.



Could I please ask that you read regularly with your child and comment in their reading diary. Many thanks for your support this term.

Humility 1 and Humility 2

We have had an enjoyable start to the year in Year 2. The children have worked hard to settle into their new routines in their classrooms. In English lessons we have been reading the story 'Pattan's Pumpkin' which the children have really enjoyed reading. The children have been showing their understanding of punctuation and expanded noun phrases through their written work. In Maths, we have been consolidating our understanding of Place Value. We have really been focussing on representing a number in different ways and partitioning numbers using a range of different methods. In History we have been learning about the Stuart dynasty and The Gunpowder Plot which all the children have been finding fascinating.

Please encourage your children to continue reading daily at home and accessing Times Table Rockstar's to practice their times tables.

Compassion 1 and Compassion 2

It has been a fantastic start to the year in Year 3. The children have worked hard to settle into life in Key Stage 2. Our text in English is 'Ug-Boy Genius of the Stone Age' which the children have really enjoyed reading. They have written setting descriptions and instructions based on this and have worked hard to develop their knowledge of adjectives, verbs, adverbs and fronted adverbials.

Place Value has been our focus in maths, where the children have learnt to partition, order, read and write numbers including interpreting pictorial representations of numbers.

Our History topic is the Stone Age and we were lucky enough to experience a great day at Kingswood last week. The children learnt all about Neolithic hunter-gatherers and participated in a variety of activities such as den building, foraging for food and cooking on a campfire.

Please ensure that your child is regularly reading at home and getting their diaries signed by an adult.

Forgiveness 1 and Forgiveness 2

The children in Forgiveness have settled well into Year 4 and are showing great values in their behaviour and their learning.

In English the children have started reading the text "The Iron Man" by Ted Hughes. We are analysing the characters, making predictions and will be focussing on a range of writing skills and techniques including newspaper reports, setting descriptions and understanding the style of writing of the author.

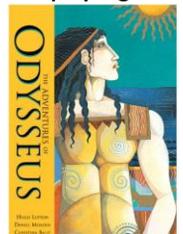
In maths the children have been focusing heavily on their timetables and fluency. We are also looking at roman numerals and place value. There is a strong focus and drive for children to be able to prove and explain their understanding of a maths concept to ensure that learning has been embedded.

We have had a Roald Dahl day, where the children looked at the text "George's Marvellous Medicine" and we tailored our lessons to reflect this. Overall a great start to the year ahead.

Contentment

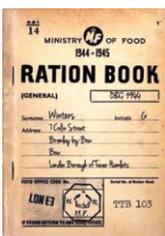
The children in Contentment have settled well after their transition from year 4 into year 5 displaying excellent behaviour and focus for the coming year.

In English we have begun reading "The Adventures of Odysseus" by Hugh Lupton, Daniel Morden and Christina Balit. We are going to be covering many of the different text types starting with a report and moving onto a letter using empathy and compassion for the characters in the text.



During our maths lessons the children have been focussing on our knowledge of number and place value. This has included using Roman numerals to solve problems and different representations of numbers. We have also continued our focus on times tables fluency through our lessons and our Multiplication Monday activities.

Roman Numerals			
1 = I	10 = X	100 = C	1000 = M
2 = II	20 = XX	200 = CC	2000 = MM
3 = III	30 = XXX	300 = CCC	3000 = MMM
4 = IV	40 = XL	400 = CD	
5 = V	50 = L	500 = D	
6 = VI	60 = LX	600 = DC	
7 = VII	70 = LXX	700 = DCC	
8 = VIII	80 = LXXX	800 = DCCC	
9 = IX	90 = XC	900 = CM	



In History the children have been learning about World War 2. We have been learning about how the war effected life at home and for our families. Our topic areas have included: how the war began, rationing, evacuation and the Blitz. The children in Contentment have been very inquisitive and enthusiastic when learning about the hardships of World War 2 and have shown a lot of compassion for all who were involved and affected by the war.

Optimism

Optimism have transitioned nicely into year 6 from year 5. We are lucky to have lots of members of staff to support us this year who include Mrs Sangha, Mr Gomersall, Mrs Chahal and Mrs Hicks. As this year is an important year, our English and Maths classes have been split into smaller groups to ensure progress can be easily obtained.

In English, the children are looking at their new Power Of Reading text: "Goodnight Mr Tom." We have been reading around World War II and looking into the lives of evacuees from that era. We have begun to write pieces such as newspaper reports and informal letters.

In Maths, we have continued to practise our arithmetic skills in and out of Maths. We have focussed on our 4 operations in depth such as multiplying decimals, dividing 4 digits numbers by 2 digits numbers and much more.

In History, we have been studying the British Empire from the Elizabethan era. We have looked at the reasons as to why and how the British empire first formed. The advantages it brought to Britain and the importance of trade with Asia and Africa.



$$\begin{array}{r} 155 \\ - 50 \\ \hline 105 \\ - 50 \\ \hline 55 \\ - 50 \\ \hline 5 \\ - 5 \\ \hline 0 \end{array}$$

(10×5)
 (10×5)
 (10×5)
 (1×5)

31 groups of 5 have been subtracted

Therefore $155 \div 5 = 31$



Year 6 - Secondary School Admissions

To support our parents with the secondary school admissions process we have arranged a series of drop in sessions on the **4th October and 11th October** from 9.00 am – 10.00 am, where Mrs Latif is available to provide advice and guidance, alternatively you can call in anytime at your convenience. Online applications must be made by the national closing date of **31st October 2019**. Making an application after the closing date can reduce the chance of your child gaining a place at one of your preferred school choices.

Street Safety – Year 5 and 6 children

As a few of our older children are now walking unaccompanied, may we remind our families to be mindful of the following:

- School gates open at 8.45 am, please ensure children are not walking around on the streets.
- Staff are not on duty until 8.45 am.
- Make sure you trust them to cross the road safely.
- Advise them not to talk to strangers.
- Walk together with a friend.
- Take the dark evenings into consideration.
- To ensure they can be seen in the dark.
- Follow them a few times on their journey if it reassures you, so you know how safe and sensible they are.
- It is not advisable that your child travels in a taxi or a bus on their own.

Children will not be dismissed unless we have received constant from the parent/carer.

Friends of Nishkam

Joining the Friends of Nishkam is a fun and exciting way to be involved in your child's education, you are not required to firmly commit as it can be as and when you are available, any of your time is a valuable contribution. For further information, please do speak to Mrs Latif, or alternatively you may approach a member of the Friends of Nishkam. We look forward to welcoming you!

Faith Section

We would like to support all pupils in their personal faith development and aim to begin this support with a challenge: To complete 550 prayers in your own faith between now and November 2019. We have chosen the number 550 as it of relevance this year. 2019 marks 550 years since the birth of the first Sikh Guru, Siri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

If all staff and pupils completed the challenge across all of our schools a total of 1,293,050 prayers would be recited!



Please help support your child with their prayers. To further support the faith development of our pupils we are planning to run prayer sessions for different faiths in the morning before school. There was a letter sent out to gauge interest. Once we have established the demand and have suitable representatives from each faith to lead the sessions we will commence the sessions. The deadline has passed so if you do wish to register your interest in this daily morning prayer sessions, kindly call on 01902 537 970.

Parent Read Day

It was so lovely to see so many of our parents/carers attend our Parent Read Day on Tuesday 24th September. The children were thrilled to show off their reading skills and their work, reception children were extra excited as they had 1-2-1 time with their parents in the classroom reading and they also took part in phonics related activities.

One of the basic reasons why reading is important is because it helps you grow mentally, emotionally and psychologically. Every book gives you an opportunity to learn new things and explore new ideas. Please try and Read with your child every day.



Communicate with your teacher

Are you not yet on Class Dojo? This tool is used by parents and teachers to communicate directly, this helps build a strong school – home partnership through fast and effective communication. Please speak with your class teacher if you require your login details.



Charity

The Friends of Nishkam hosted their first event of the academic year! We had fantastic attendance at our Macmillan coffee morning, families united and enjoyed a tea, coffee and cake all in good company. They continued to display the virtue of selflessness and compassion with a samosa and cake sale that took place at the end of the school day.



In total we raised £227.91 which will be donated to Macmillan, a charity that supports people who are affected by cancer, they provide practical support within their homes, offering emotional support and advice. Well done and a massive thank you for your support and donations!

We would also like to congratulate Miss Gull and the Nishkam team for supporting the Counterpoint Choirs in their annual fund raising bid. They successfully raised £2000 which will be split equally between Kidney Research UK and Seasons Theatre Company.

Nishkam School Stamp down on Fly-tippers

Our school have helped Wolverhampton City Council convict and prosecute a fly-tipper receiving £100 in reward. Mr Finch our Site Manager and the office were able to provide enough evidence for the council to take action. There is an on-going issue with Fly-tipping in Wolverhampton and we are proud to be part of the solution. The full article can be viewed online via:

<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/news/caretaker-bags-school-ps100-after-shopping-local-fly-tipper>

This is also on Twitter and Facebook, the children were happy to be part of this initiative and very happy to receive the reward!



ParentPay

There has been a lot going on this month with Reception and Year 3 going on their first trip this year, Many of our parents are now online, with 83% of ParentPay accounts activated. For those who have not yet taken that step to activate their account please do so with your child's login details.

Card payments are no longer accepted at the office due to GDPR regulations, so please register your child's account online failing this method of payment, a barcode can be obtained from the school office that can be used in any paypoint outlet. You can contact Mrs Sandhu on 01902 537970 option 2, to request this.

Contentment Year 5 will be visiting Cannock Chase Museum on Monday 14th October, could contentment parents please make their contribution online via their parentpay account.

Contribution for trips and events help ensure the cost of such worthy causes can be covered without these payments the trips and events will be unable to take place. Thank you all for your continued support in this.

Dinner money charges will be updated to all KS2 school meal accounts no later than Friday 4th October. We ask parents to continue to make their dinner money payments in advance of meals taken, a reminder the weekly charge of £11.00 should be paid.

Nishkam takes on Great Birmingham Run

Nishkam staff and pupils from across the Nishkam schools will be taking part in the Great Birmingham run. Calling all kids to join Birmingham city centre's big day of running taking place on the Sunday 13th October 2019. The Great Birmingham Run half marathon has shorter routes for children - and a medal for each waiting at the finish line.

Dozens of children from Nishkam Primary School in Handsworth, Birmingham and Nishkam Trust School in Wolverhampton will be wearing the red tee-shirts of city charity 'Zero Hunger with Langar' at the Mini Run, to help the charity's mission to improve quality of life around the world. 'Langar' is the concept of providing free compassionate food for all people, regardless of faith, gender, age or social status.

'Zero Hunger with Langar' is just one of dozens of charities that stand to benefit from thousands of pounds of fundraising at the Midlands' biggest day of running. Please register your interest below by visiting: www.greatrun.org/great-birmingham-run/juniorandminibirmingham. If you could inform the school office we can then register your interest too and request your child's t-shirt. Further details can be found on our website via www.nishkamschooltrust.org/npsw/news/?pid=396&nid=9&storyid=33