Claverdon News

October 2026

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to reflect on what has been an incredibly positive and successful start to the academic year at Claverdon.

Our youngest children have made an excellent start to school life and have settled quickly into routines, friendships and learning. A special thank you must go to our fantastic Year 6 buddies, who have been amazing in supporting them as they begin their school journey. Through their kindness, responsibility and positive role modelling, they have helped our youngest pupils feel welcome, safe and happy, demonstrating the caring and inclusive community we are so proud of at Claverdon.

This term has provided many opportunities for children to learn, grow and thrive beyond the classroom and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm with which they have embraced every opportunity.

One of the highlights of the term was our **Hello Yellow Day**, where children and staff came together to raise awareness of children's mental health and wellbeing. The day was filled with positivity, important conversations and opportunities to remind one another that it is always okay to talk about our feelings and seek support when needed.

We have also been exceptionally proud of our commitment to children's rights. During our **UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools** accreditation visit, the assessor was highly impressed by the confidence, knowledge and passion our pupils demonstrated when discussing their rights and responsibilities. We now eagerly await the outcome and are proud of the contributions made by children, staff and families. A special thank you goes to **Mrs. Bevan**, whose dedication and leadership have been instrumental in embedding children's rights across our school community.

Our pupil leadership programme has enjoyed a fantastic start, with almost 100 applications submitted by children keen to make a positive contribution to school life. We are incredibly grateful to **Mr. Oakley**, whose passion and dedication have been instrumental in developing leadership opportunities across the school. We were also especially proud to see India represent our constituency at the Children's Parliament in the Houses of Parliament, an inspiring achievement.

Please also take a few moments to review the **Updated Information for Parents** included within this newsletter. In particular, I would encourage all families to familiarise themselves with our guidance regarding **leave of absence during term time**, as strong attendance remains one of the most important factors in supporting children's success.

Finally, thank you for your continued support. The strong partnership between home and school plays a vital role in helping our children succeed and we greatly appreciate everything you do to support their learning, attendance and wellbeing.

With very best wishes,

Mr. Dan Powell
Head Teacher

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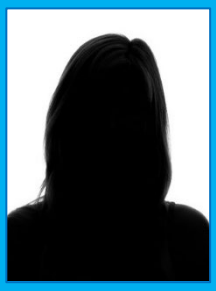
Staff News and Updates

Farewell to Miss Cannings

Since joining Claverdon at the start of this academic year, Miss Cannings has been a valued member of our team, supporting our pupils with warmth, care and dedication. Although her time with us has been relatively short, she has made a positive contribution and built strong relationships with both children and staff.

Sophie will be leaving Claverdon to pursue new personal opportunities. While we are naturally sorry to see her go, we would like to thank her for all she has contributed during her time with us.

Teaching Assistant - Vacancy



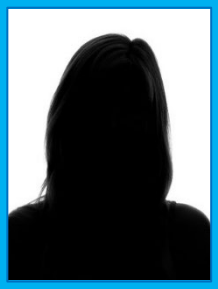
As a result of the changes outlined above, we are seeking to appoint a dedicated, enthusiastic and caring **Level 2 TA**, with additional **Midday Supervisor responsibilities** for **23.75 hours per week** (18.75 TA2 hours and 5 MDS hours), working **8:30am to 1:15pm, Monday to Friday**.

We are looking for someone who is passionate about supporting children to thrive, both academically and personally. The successful candidate will be nurturing, patient and able to build positive relationships with children, colleagues and families. Strong communication, organisation and teamwork skills are essential, along with a flexible and proactive approach to school life.

As part of the role, you will also undertake Midday Supervisor duties, helping to create a safe, happy and engaging lunchtime environment for our pupils.

If you are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of young people and would like to join our friendly, supportive and ambitious school community, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Midday Supervisors - Vacancies



We are also looking to recruit **Midday Supervisors** to join our lunchtime team.

This rewarding role involves supporting pupils during the lunchtime period, helping to ensure that all children enjoy a safe, happy and positive dining and play experience. Successful candidates will be approachable, reliable and able to build positive relationships with children while promoting good behaviour and wellbeing.

The position is for **7.5 hours per week**, working **Monday to Friday from 11:45am to 1:15pm** during term time.

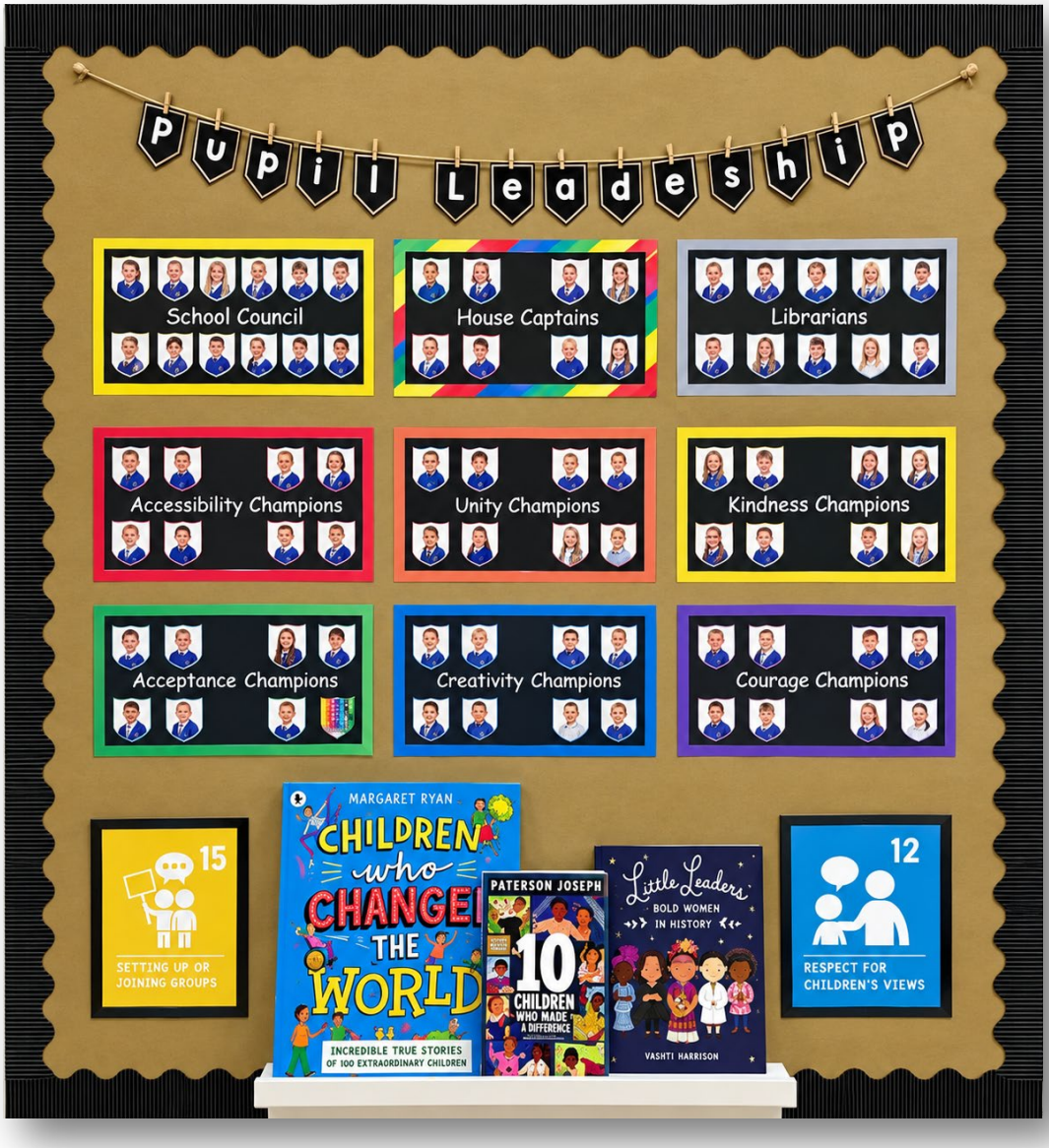
If you enjoy working with children and would like to play an important role in our school community, we would be delighted to hear from you. Full training and support will be provided for the successful candidate.

Congratulations and a Warm Welcome to Mrs McLean

We are delighted to announce that, following a recent recruitment process, **Mrs. McLean** has been appointed as a Teaching Assistant and will be joining the Claverdon team after half-term.

Mrs McLean will be supporting pupils in **Year 3 during the mornings** and **Year 6 in the afternoons**. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience, being a qualified teacher and is also currently working towards a **Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling**.

Pupil Leadership:
Shaping the world of tomorrow!



The Autumn term has offered us the chance to yet again feel incredibly proud of all the children who applied for our pupil leadership roles this year. Out of the nearly 100 applications, the pupil leadership groups for 2026/27 were selected!

With a new focus on our school values, the leadership positions offer an exciting opportunity to shape the school moving forward. The leadership groups will meet routinely working collaboratively to make Claverdon the best place it can possibly be.

The 'rainbow' of badges already brightens each day and we look forward to seeing our new champions developing in their new roles over the coming year and being able to continue to support pupil voice in all aspects of school.

A special shout out must also go to India in Year 6 who represented our constituency in the Houses of Parliament at the inaugural meeting of the Children's Parliament in October. Mr Oakley, Mr Powell and two other lucky pupils joined India for the day in a truly inspiration day!

Mr. Oakley *- Assistant Head Teacher*

Autumn 2 Term Diary Dates:
Important dates for your diary

Date:	Event description
04/11/26	Theatre Performance of Beauty & the Beast for Y2 - 6 in school (2.00 – 3.00pm)
11/11/26	Remembrance Day (Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Brownies/Girl Guides may wear this uniform to mark the day)
13/11/26	Children in Need (non-uniform)
29/11/26	Christingle Service, St Michael and All Angels (Sunday – 4.00pm)
30/11/26	Reception Advent Service, St Michael and All Angels (10.45 – 11.45am) *All parents & carers welcome*
02/12/26	Parent/Carers' Evening, face-to-face (4.00 – 6.30pm)
03/12/26	Parent/Carers' Evening, face-to-face (4.00 – 6.30pm)
09/12/26	Rec & KS1 visit 'The Gruffalo's Child' at Warwick Arts Centre (12.15 – 2.45pm)
10/12/26	KS2 visit 'Cinderella' at Leamington Spa Centre (9.15 – 12.30pm)
10/12/26	Parent/Carers' Evening, SEND Pupils Only, face-to-face (4.00 – 6.00pm)
11/12/26	Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children Charity) & Christmas Lunch
11/12/26	Reception Christmas Nativity, St Michael and All Angels (1.15 – 2.15pm) *All parents & carers welcome*
15/12/26	KS1/KS2 School Christmas Service, St Michael and All Angels (9.30 – 10.30am) *All parents & carers welcome*
15/12/26	YR, Y1, Y2 Nativity Show 1 (2.00 - 3.00pm)
16/12/26	YR, Y1, Y2 Nativity Show 2 (2.00 - 3.00pm)
18/12/26	**Break up for Christmas!**

Promoting Strong School Attendance

At Claverdon Primary School, we are committed to providing the best education for every child and regular school attendance is key to their success.

While we understand occasional absences due to illness or unavoidable reasons, strong attendance is essential for your child's academic achievement, personal development and future opportunities.

Why Attendance Matters

Regular attendance helps your child:

- **Achieve their best** academically, as learning builds day-by-day.
- **Develop friendships** and social skills.
- **Build confidence** through routines.
- **Prepare for future opportunities**, whether in secondary school, further education, or work.

Government guidance highlights that children with poor attendance are at a disadvantage, leading to **learning gaps**, **lower attainment** and **fewer opportunities** later in life.

The Impact of Poor Attendance

Missing school regularly can have a serious impact. For example:

- **90% attendance** = missing **1 half-day** every week = nearly **4 weeks lost per year**.
- **80% attendance** = missing **1 full day** every week = almost **8 weeks lost per year**.

Over multiple years, this adds up:

- **90% attendance over 5 years** = half a year of lost education.
- **80% attendance over 5 years** = a full year of lost education.

Missing even one day a week can lead to learning gaps that are difficult to overcome, affecting progress, confidence and future opportunities. Prioritising attendance helps develop positive habits that will benefit your child throughout life.

Supporting You and Your Child

We are here to support you and your child in maintaining good attendance. If you face challenges affecting attendance, such as health or family issues, please let us know. We can offer guidance and, where needed, connect with external services to help.

Attendance Expectations

- **Above 97%** attendance is considered excellent.
- **90-96%** attendance is concerning and we will discuss strategies to improve.
- **Below 90%** is classed as **persistent absenteeism**. In such cases, we will work closely with you to address the reasons and put supportive measures in place.

What We Expect from You

1. **Ensure your child attends school daily** and arrives on time (8:30 am opening).
2. **Avoid absences during term time**, including holidays, which will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.
3. **Notify us by 8:45 am** if your child is unwell and unable to attend.
4. **Work with us** to resolve any concerns.

The Process for Managing Attendance

Our approach follows the latest **Department for Education (DfE) guidance.**

1. **Unauthorised attendance**: All unauthorised attendance will be reported to the Local Authority in line with the school 'Attendance Policy'.
2. **Regular Monitoring:** Attendance is reviewed daily and weekly. Children below 90% are flagged for early intervention.
3. **Initial Contact:** If attendance falls, we will contact you to discuss and offer support.
4. **Attendance Support Plan:** If concerns persist, we will create a plan, setting targets and providing access to resources or external services.
5. **Formal Measures:** If attendance does not improve, we will follow formal measures, as outlined in the school 'Attendance policy', which may include fines or legal proceedings.

Leave of Absence During Term Time

Updated Information for Parents

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).

First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.

Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

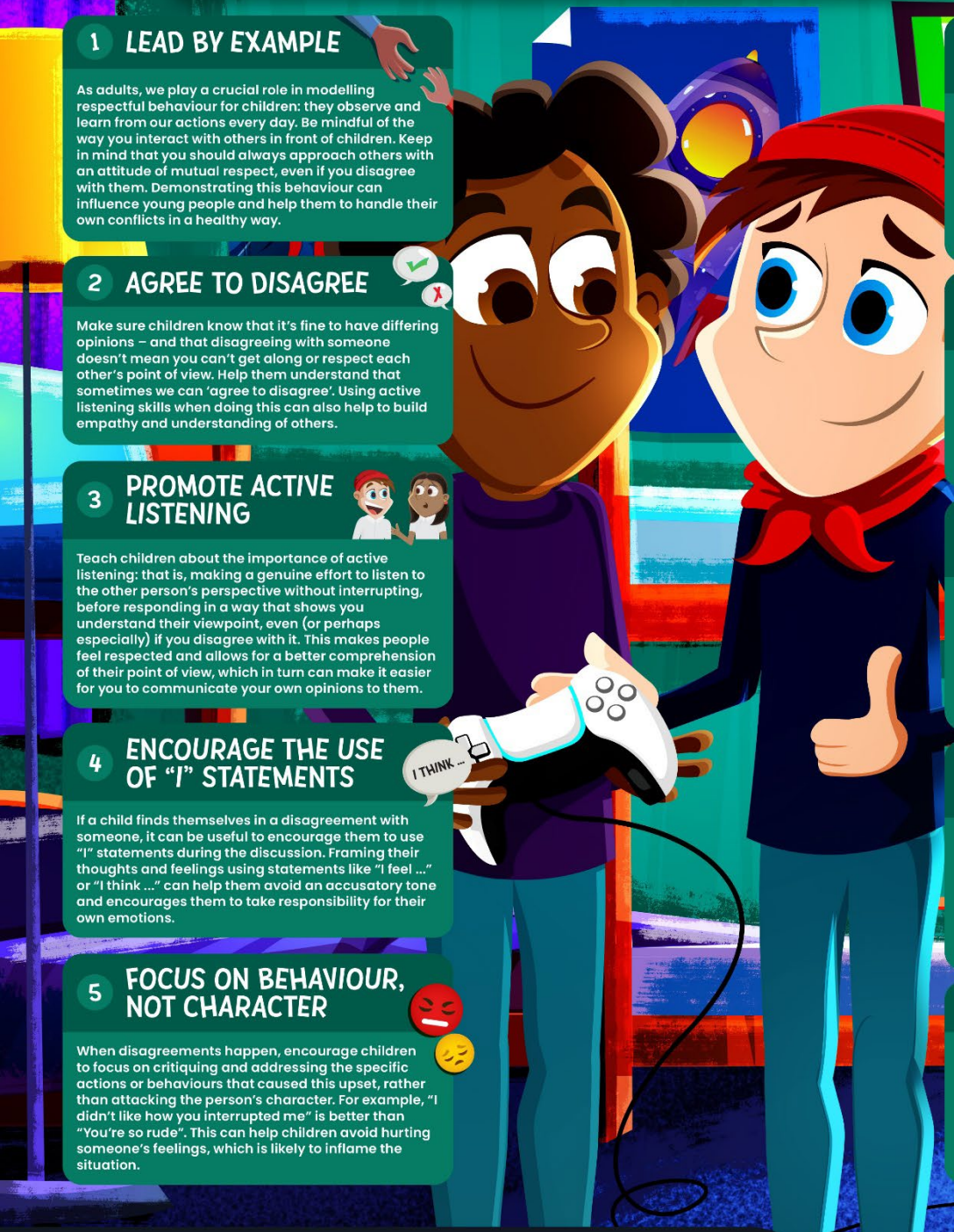
Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.



1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each another.

9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/choose-respect

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NUT ALLERGIES

OUR SCHOOL IS

NUT AWARE

WHY IT MATTERS

Nuts can cause serious allergic reactions in some children. Even a tiny amount can be life-threatening.

LET'S KEEP EVERYONE SAFE TOGETHER

FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL OUR PUPILS, PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL SNACKS AND LUNCH ITEMS ARE NUT-FREE.

WHAT DOES THIS INCLUDE?

ALL TYPES OF NUTS

Peanuts, almonds, cashews, pistachios, walnuts, hazelnuts, etc.

NUT-BASED PRODUCTS

Peanut butter, Nutella, almond milk, nut oils, and any other nut-based items.

ANY FOODS CONTAINING NUTS

Granola bars, cakes, biscuits, cookies, cereal bars, etc.

HOUMOUS

Contains sesame, another common allergen.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE FOR ALL PUPILS!

If you have any questions or need help with nut-free lunch ideas, please contact the school office.

Thank you!

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