



## **Nurturing Hearts Week 2023**

Next week across our family of schools, we will be holding a focus week linked to our school vision, values and motto called Nurturing Hearts Week. The main focus of the week will be supporting the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA), Anti-bullying week. The theme for anti-bullying week this year is 'Make A Noise About Bullying.'

As part of our week in school, we have a wide number of activities planned to help support and nurture our children so that everyone can thrive.



## Monday 13th November

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November, we are asking all of our children to support **Odd Socks Day.** All the children need to do is wear odd socks to school! This is a national day and marks the start of our Nurturing Hearts week. It's a bit of fun to encourage everyone to express themselves and celebrate how unique we all are. I will share mine in our whole school assembly on Monday too!

Throughout the week, there are also a number of assemblies and lessons planned. These will specifically explore the qualities of a strong friendship as well as the impact of bullying so that everyone in our family of schools understands the meaning of bullying, its impact on others and what to do if they are worried about it.

As a school, we define bullying as: when words, gestures or actions are used **REPEATEDLY** to **DELIBERATELY** hurt others. A bully is defined as someone who deliberately sets out to hurt another person on more than one occasion.

As a family of schools, we use 'STOP' when we think about bullying:

Several Times On Purpose.

Start Telling Other People.

We have also written both a KS1 and KS2 child friendly anti-bullying policy that will be discussed with the children and sent home for you to share.









As part of our assembly time, we will be using the NSPCC Speak out Stay safe resources. The aim of the sessions is to help children understand how they can keep themselves safe from harm.

https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/speak-out-stay-safe https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/ourservices/working-with-schools



In addition to our parents' online safety session last Wednesday, our children will also be exploring online safety and keeping safe online.

## Wednesday 15th November

Due to INSET next Friday, this year we will be celebrating BBC Children in Need on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Children are invited to wear their own pyjamas or spotty clothes in return for a donation to this very important charity. This year, we are also joining the Children in Need <u>Bearpee</u> challenge – feel free to join in at home too!



Each child will do 10 Bearpees a day so that as a school, we will complete more than 15,000 Bearpees over the week. If you or family members wish to sponsor the children for the challenge, you are very welcome. All donations and any Bearpee sponsorship for Children in Need will be collected on the playground next Wednesday. Thank you as always for any support you are able to provide.

As a family of schools, we are proud of our caring and inclusive ethos; however, we also recognise that we must never be complacent and that more can always be done. As part of our vision, we strive to continue to grow and strengthen our warm and safe environment so that all children and staff can flourish. Indeed, **Friendship**, **Kindness** and **Belonging** are three of our key values at the Whiteoak Academies that help to guide our work and play in order to bring to life our vivid school vision.

Thank you as always for your support.

With very best wishes,

Mr Duncan Cook
Executive Headteacher