Newsletter 15.10..21

Severndale Star

Principal's Message

Hello to all families

Its Friday again and here we are in the penultimate week before the October half term. Pupils have once again been working really hard and the photographs in this weeks Severndale Star show some of the fantastic activities that have been happening. I am particularly excited about the photographs taken at Tickwood and it is brilliant that our sixth form have been able to get out and about after such a long time being restricted within the school building. I know Joe (sixth form lead) and Laurence (assistant principal) have done an incredible amount of work to enable this to happen safely. In addition to our newsletter this week I am also attaching the PACC newsletter and I am really pleased to share that I met with the parent and carer council this week and will meet with PACC next week. It is incredibly important to me that we are listening to the voices of the families and responding to family concerns and questions.

Parent Evening Thankyou

Thankyou to all parents who contributed to our parent evening on Tuesday and I am still trying to assess if the virtual way of hosting these events are as good if not better than the face to face parents evening? I know at present this decision has to be made due to the increasing rates of Covid across Shropshire but I would be interested to get feedback on parents views regarding this? It was however good to receive the feedback regarding progress so far this year and communication and I am pleased to announce that 93% of parents feel that communication is good between school and home. Obviously there is always more work to be done in this area and I will not be happy until we get a 100% response of good from parents.

REALLY IMPORTANT COVID 19 UPDATE

I am aware that this week we have asked a number of our pupils to go for a PCR test before returning to school following a positive case occurring in their class. I understand that this has been confusing for families and in some instances communication about procedures has not been clear. As a result we arranged a meeting with UK Health Security Agency (previously known before 1st October as Public Health England) yesterday (Thursday) and discussed the situation with regards to Severndale pupils. They acknowledged that national, local and their own guidance is not consistent but did reiterate that the government have given them the authority to make local decisions in conjunction with organisations such as ourselves. As a result of the meeting, UK Health Security Agency will be producing a letter that outlines how Severndale is viewed differently to mainstream schools and therefore our response to positive cases is different. I am hoping that this information can be shared with you by the end of the day on Tuesday at the latest but just to reassure you that our current response will continue and is approved by the UK Health Security Agency.

SOCIAL MEDIA

I am aware that many of our families communicate via various social media apps and previously this has been a really good way of families sharing information about the school. We are always keen to listen to parents and we would encourage parents to contact the school if you have any school related issues before you use social media to share the information. I am optimistic that we will be able to help with any issues that you may have providing that we are aware of them.

Finally as always may I wish you all a pleasant weekend and remind you about bringing in some pre packed food for the food bank, and dressing up in your BRIGHTEST COLOURS for our MUFTI day on MONDAY. In addition I am also happy for pupils to wear appropriate and non scary (no clown or horror masks etc) Halloween inspired outfits on Friday for the final day of the half term if they wish.

Brian

Severndale
Specialist Academy

We are Back at Tickwood!!!

It's so good to be back. A group of Sixth form students made a long awaited return to Tickwood farm last week. They were met by the owner Edward Dugdale who spent the day with them. He showed them around the farm and all the wonderful facilities; including the newly completed Nissan Hut, a residential facility that we hope to make use of. The students had a superb day, even if the rope bridge was something of a challenge. Our next mission is to collect and juice apples.

Getting to know one another in Pre Formal

Over the term P8 they have been getting to know about one another and their teacher. They have shared information about themselves including what they did in the Summer holidays, from Brazilian carnival masks to relaxing holidays surrounded by trees. They have even undertaken some class bonding by exercising with wheelchair basket ball, which they all really enjoyed.

Cupcake Making...

P1 had a very sensory time making cupcakes, they enjoyed taking turns to mix the ingredients together and getting flour everywhere!

Seaside Garden

P11 capturing a moment or two of the nice weather to go into our seaside garden and look at sensory windmills.

Sixth Form Community Project

On Friday SF1 and SF2 Hospitality Group painted the fence and litter picked at Albert Road day service . The Lovely Land Charity mentioned Severndale school on their Facebook page on Friday as well to say thank you.

Donation From Morrisons

Morrisons Community Champion, Chelsea has kindly organised for a customer collection of stationery items which they have donated to Severdale. Our students will be over the moon to receive all the new stationery. A big thank you to Morrisons customers.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Next week supermarket vouchers will be sent out to families of students eligible for benefits related Free School Meals to cover the period of October Half Term. These will be sent using Edenred as we have done over previous holidays.

Please keep an eye out for their emails and check your junk/spam folder if you haven't received anything. If you have any questions please contact your class teacher.

Severndale
Specialist Academy

Smoothie Bike

The smoothie bike came to Severndale yesterday, some of our semi-formal students had great fun making juices. They also got some exercise along the way.

Mary Webb

Have had a great start to the term, welcoming lots of new students to the centre and several have started inclusion lessons including History, English & Maths. They have also all taken part in their first Curriculum Day with Mary Webb, our year 7s and 8s joined Mary Webb for a walk up Pontesbury Hill, our year 9s took part in a history themed day, year 10s took part in Dragons Den and year 11s concentrated on their CVs and employment skills.

In PE we have been playing basketball, and we have had inter-house basketball tournaments.

MW2 have followed instructions on how to make a garden in a bottle and produced a PowerPoint containing instructions for others to follow. MW3 have worked in teams to write instructions for a treasure hunt. They all worked well in teams.

PCSOs came into discuss safety in the community. The students asked lots of questions and showed a good understanding.

Severndale
Specialist Academy

Swimming at Severndale

Several of our classes enjoy the Hydro Therapy pool, especially those who may normally be in a wheelchair, it gives them the chance to feel and relax in the warm water and exercise. For other classes it's a time to all enjoy the water together.

Futures

This week at Futures the students have been working alongside job coaches on reception. Meeting and greeting visitors and taking phone call messages. They have also been showing groups of Health and social care Shrewsbury college students around the Futures building to see what we teach and how we communicate.

In wellbeing, students were making homemade lavender scented sensory dough . A very relaxing and calming experience that helped to focus their minds.

Bus Escort Saves Swan...

One of our students bus escorts saved a swan in Coleham last week! Well done we were very proud of the escort and that our students got to witness such a kind deed!

Read the whole story here:
https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/shrewsbury/2021/10/01/swan-brings-traffic-to-a-standstill-outside-shrewsbury-school/

4 NEWS

Swan gets rescued

Rotary Tree of Light

We are very proud that Severndale's Futures centre has been named as one of the beneficiaries of the Shrewsbury Severn Rotary . A huge thank you from all of Severndale. Read the whole story here:
https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/shrewsbury/2021/10/04/shrewsbury-rotary-tree-of-light-beneficiaries-named/

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Tree beneficiaries named

Former mayor Gwen Burgess

Dates Coming up...

Monday 18th Mufti Day
(Wear your brightest colours)
Friday 22 October last day of term
Monday 1 November first day of term

Assembly's are Back!

On Tuesday, F1, F2, F3 & F4 held their harvest festival. They learnt about the importance of harvest and being grateful and saying thanks. Children displayed their food donations, which have been donated to the Severndale food bank. They also listened to Harvest songs too. The assembly ended by celebrating pupil of the week, the achievements were for independence, working hard and settling into school. A huge well done to everyone!

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