

Monday 2nd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are finding the need to use our values more than ever in these difficult times. As a staff team, we are finding comfort in the values of positivity and determination. The teachers have been strengthened by hearing your positive comments during the parent consultation meetings - it really does make a difference!

After half term, look out for our Values Sculpture by the entrance, which is being installed during half term. It was designed by the children before lockdown. It includes a beautiful steel representation of our values mascot– Twinkle the Owl– who will stand proudly by the door.

Mrs Kelly and Mrs Bannister were delighted to attend the annual Values Based Education Conference, run virtually this year. It was good to revisit basic principles and assess our valued based education journey as well as steal some great ideas from other schools.

In November we are focussing on the value of 'Forgiveness'. The children have attended an assembly to introduce the value, which is available on our website. We talked about

Forgiveness as when we stop feeling angry towards someone or yourself. We considered our value of Learning and how we see mistakes as a positive opportunity to learn. This helped the children understand that if we are OK about making mistakes, then we need to have

Forgiveness as a value to help us.

We will be talking to the children about the delicate balance we need to strike. On the one hand, passively tolerating and excusing on-going mean behaviour definitely isn't healthy.

Research with adults (Luchies et al 2010) shows that, long term, repeatedly forgiving people who don't mend their ways eats away at self-respect.

On the other hand, children need to understand that no one is perfect, so generously and compassionately forgiving a well-meaning or remorseful friend is a caring thing to do. When adults help children imagine the other person's perspective, this can help children clarify how they want to move forward.

Using the Values At Home

Here are some practical ideas to use at home if you wish:

<https://psychcentral.com/blog/how-to-teach-a-child-forgiveness/>

We hope you enjoy exploring this value at home with your child.

Many Thanks,

The Stillness Staff

