



15 March 2019

Dear Parents

**Up and Coming Events; Year 4 visit Thursday Parents EVENINGS Monday 25<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Liz Twist MP**

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 9am Liz Twist will be in school hosting an open surgery for parents and families. This forum is open for you to raise any concerns about the community, parking etc. I hope you will be able to come along and help with our Road Safety Campaign.

#### **Reading Shed Winners**

Congratulations to Lola, Katy, Mila, Austin, Elizabeth, Mia, Ruqaya, Emily & Amelie who won book vouchers for their designs for our Reading Shed.

#### **Animation Club**

This morning in assembly our students from Animation Club shared their film that they had created in the club. It was really good and was well received by all the other children. Well Done!

#### **Front Street Musical Extravaganza**

On **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 3:45 - 5:15pm** some of the children will be entertaining us with their talents, singing, dancing and playing their musical instruments. Come along and watch the Musical Extravaganza! There will be refreshments on sale and a raffle.

#### **School Meals**

Currently Gateshead Council charge us £2.60 per meal per day. We only charge £2.40 per meal per day which means school are subsidising every child's meal by 20p per meal. With over 300 meals per day it doesn't take long for this sum of money from our budget to escalate.

From April 2019 Gateshead Council are increasing the cost of a school meal to £2.70. From Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April the cost of a school meal at Front Street will be in line with Gateshead Council charge. Each day a meal will cost £2.70 (£13.50 per week).

### Farewell

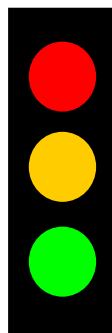
We've just found out that we are losing Jane, one of our much-loved cooks, to another school. We wish her the very best of luck.

### Social Media

I try to be on the yard as much as possible and also contactable by telephone if anyone has any concerns or queries. Moans and groans via social media do not solve the problems. I am here to help and will do all I can to alleviate problems. Please see our Whickham Cluster of Schools Social Media Policy and letter below. These can also be accessed on our website.

### Attendance

Congratulations to 2S who had top attendance this week. Well Done to 3ON, 4H, 5G, 6L & 6W who were in the green section of our traffic lights.



Red - Danger Zone - Below 90%

Amber - At Risk Zone - 91% - 96%

Green - Safety Zone - 97% - 100%

Class 1G	94.5%	Class 4H	96.3%
Class 1S	95%	Class 4K	93.1%
Class 2M	94.8%	Class 5G	98.3%
Class 2S	99.3%	Class 5H	95.7%
Class 3ON	97%	Class 6L	97.2%
Class 3P	95.2%	Class 6W	97.2%

### Year 6 Help Required:

Each year, we ask for help from parents and carers to support us in the SATs process. We will be starting to use readers in Maths and SPaG practice tests on a Thursday between 9am and 12pm. If anyone is willing to help, then that will be greatly appreciated. Further information and guidance will be given by the Y6 teachers. Please do not worry: you do not have to be a maths or grammar expert. If you can help, please let us know. Thank you.

## FOFS



Here is a reminder of the events that are coming up.

**Easter Film Night - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** - The children from Year 1 -6 should have brought a letter home about this during this week. The details of the event are all on the letter with information about payments and timings etc. The film is a PG this time so by sending in the consent this means you agree to your child watching it. If you can help at the film night there is a space on the form to give your details. **The last date to buy tickets will be 27<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Sponsored Hop - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March** - The children brought home a sponsor form to complete this week. This event will take place on the afternoon of this date during school time.

**Win your height in Easter eggs** - the tickets for this will be sold on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April in the morning and then the winners will be chosen from the tickets sold - the tickets will be £1 each.

**Front Street Musical Extravaganza -Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April** - FOFS will be serving refreshments and are also holding a raffle at this event.

Yours sincerely  
HJ Gladstone  
Headteacher

# WHICKHAM CLUSTER OF SCHOOLS



Dear Parents

## Social Media and the School

**Please refer to our school website (Policies) to see our procedure when parents use social media to moan and groan about issues in school. If anyone has any complaints, please come and see me so I can help to resolve them. If I don't know, I can't help.**

Social Media is defined as any kind of tool that is used for sharing information, including blogs, photo sharing, video sharing, face book, twitter, mobile phone applications, texting, digital TV services, and other such internet-based programmes that give others access to your views and opinions.

A school should be a safe place where relationships between staff, parents and visitors demonstrates a mutual respect and recognition of shared responsibility for pupils' welfare and educational progress.

As parents of pupils at this school if you are thinking of sharing views on the school, its staff or its operational activities we expect you to make your comments in a respectful way. Please do not make personal, aggressive or hateful comments about staff or pupils and their parents. If your comments are found offensive by the reader, we will ask you to remove your comments. We want to avoid being in this situation as it stops you from sharing your views.

We would request that you set the tone for online conversations about the school, its employees and the pupils by being polite and the use of familiar language should not include swear words or abusive slang. Should you feel the need to criticise an individual at the school we would expect you to contact the person directly to meet and discuss the reason for criticism in the first instance in order to resolve any issues. Should you feel the need to take the matter further then you can arrange to speak to the head teacher or Chair of Governors or follow the school's complaints procedure.

However, should you feel the need to express yourself on a social media site we ask that any criticism is made in as constructive a manner as possible as different things are acceptable to different people. If you think there's a possibility that someone may be offended by your comments, please re-write your comments in a more sensitive way.

If any comments are deemed to be defamatory i.e. which are untrue, inaccurate and may damage the reputation of the person, the individual may be advised to take legal proceedings against the author of those comments which may result not only in the comments being taken off the social media sites but also a financial cost to the author to reimburse the individual for any injury to feelings.

Any comments which include racist, sexist, homophobic remarks, harassment or intimidation and threats of violence will be reported to the police for their investigation. Authors of such comments may find that criminal proceedings are then commenced against them.

I would like to remind you that you are legally responsible for what you do or say online and what you say openly can be accessed around the world in minutes and can be republished elsewhere. You must be willing to take personal responsibility for anything that you say online.

We want to work with our parents to ensure that the school is a safe place for all and if you do feel strongly enough about an incident at the school involving a member of staff then we encourage you to resolve it. But the best way to resolve issues is by meeting the individual member of staff at the school or the head teacher for an open and constructive discussion to ensure the best resolution for all concerned.

## **Social Media Abusive Comments Procedure**

### **Introduction**

Social Media is defined as any kind of tool that is used for sharing information, including blogs, photo sharing, video sharing, face book, twitter, mobile phone applications, texting, digital TV services, and other such internet-based programmes that allows an individual to post their views and opinions for others to read.

A school should be a safe place where relationships between staff, parents and visitors demonstrates a mutual respect and recognition of shared responsibility for pupils' welfare and educational progress. However, there are increasing examples of incidents whereby parents/carers and other individuals are making comments regarding the school, its staff and sometimes other parents and pupils which can be deemed to be offensive, threatening and unwarranted.

### **Inappropriate content**

Inappropriate content can be made up of abusive and offensive comments, abusive comments are those that include public criticism, use of derogatory names, condescending tones, intimidation, rudeness, coercion, and blaming others for mistakes they did not make. Offensive comments include racist or homophobic remarks (and other discriminatory comments) and harassment.

Sometimes inappropriate content is illegal and should be reported to the Police. This includes threats of:

- violence or assault
- harassment and intimidation over a period of time including personal insults or threats, and sending abusive emails or text messages (one incident is not normally enough for prosecution)
- anything involving hate crimes or inciting others to target individuals of a specific social group

### **Responding to Inappropriate Comments**

Inappropriate comments can fall in to one of three categories:

Personal opinion – this can be criticism of how school dealt with an incident and may not always be constructive, name calling of individual employees, frustrated or angry comments which may upset the employee being complained about. These comments may be hurtful to the individual and uncomplimentary about the school. However, as they are opinions rather than statements of fact they do not breach any legislation and therefore there is limited response that the school can take.

Any comments of this manner should be responded to by inviting the author in to discuss the content, resolve any issues and to ask for the comments to be removed from the site using the appropriate letter.

Defamation – this is comments or statements that are false, may damage the reputation of the person they are made about and it is not in the public interest for these comments to be made. The comments may be slanderous when spoken or libellous if written and therefore fall foul of legislation.

However, the *Derbyshire County Council v Times Newspapers* [1993] AC 534 case in which Derbyshire County Council attempted to sue the newspaper for defamation the Court ruled that a local authority had no right at common law to sue for libel to protect its governing or administrative reputation, because allowing it such a right would stifle public opinion and be contrary to the public interest. Therefore, the local authority cannot sue an individual for defamation on behalf of an employee. This would not stop the employee who has been defamed bringing their own defamation case and advice should be sought from an independent legal adviser over the potential success of any such claim.

Should comments be deemed to be defamatory then the school should inform the author that they find the comments damaging, that they are untrue and meet the criteria for libel, and that the

employee may seek legal advice with regards to suing them. They should also be informed to remove the comments immediately from their site.

Threatening – comments that are intimidating causing the employee to believe that they are actually at risk of being harmed and follow on from an inflammatory meeting, bullying, harassment or verbal abuse motivated due to the employee's [racial group](#), [religion](#), [sexual orientation](#), [ethnicity](#) or [gender identity](#) are regarded as hate crime. These comments meet the criteria for hate crime and should be reported to the police for their investigation.

Should an employee feel any comments about them on face book meet the above then the school should inform the author that the police will be informed of the comments and that should they persist in making such comments then they may be asked not to come on the school site except by written request from the head teacher and that this will be reviewed on a regular basis.


### **Employees and Governors use of Social Media**

Employees and Governors need to ensure that their personal use of social media cannot be deemed to be inappropriate and that they do not enter into communication with parents/carers or other family members of pupils at the school via social media. If employees/Governors do use social media in their private lives they should be mindful about how they respond to comments and other online content. In fast-moving social media spaces, it's easy to say something that may be regretted later – either because of a simple mistake (such as typing the wrong word in haste), or because of lack of judgement.

It is important to think of the possible implications of what may be conveyed to the reader of any comments or responses to comments made on social media sites particularly if this communication involves or refers to children or young people. Therefore, both employees and Governors are advised not to respond to requests from parents of pupils or pupils to be "friends" on social media sites and should they become aware of comments made on any sites that may be deemed to be inappropriate comments about the school or issues within the school to report those comments on to the Head teacher.

### **Support**

Employees may be able to seek legal redress on comments that damage their reputation however they will need to take independent legal advice as to whether or not the comments breach the Defamation Act 1996. Neither the Council nor the school can undertake such action as the Derbyshire County Council v Times Newspapers Ltd and others Court of Appeal judgement (upheld by the House of Lords) stated that it was contrary to public interest for central or local government bodies to sue for libel and would place an undesirable fetter on freedom of speech.




# DO YOU KNOW AN EXTRAORDINARY CHILD?

EXPLORING THE EXCEPTIONAL LIVES OF GIFTED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

We are looking for the nation's brightest children to compete for the title of Child Genius

If you know a child aged 8-12 years old who would like to take part, email us for more information at: [child.genius@walltowall.co.uk](mailto:child.genius@walltowall.co.uk) or call 020 7241 9225

## CHILD GENIUS IS BACK



0207 241 9225

\*Please be aware of age restrictions on social media  
[www.facebook.com/childgeniusuk/](http://www.facebook.com/childgeniusuk/) @childgeniusuk




# CHILD GENIUS OPEN DAY!

FOR THE CHANCE TO TAKE PART IN TV SERIES CHILD GENIUS

QUICK-FIRE QUIZZES  
 MENSA CHALLENGES  
 STRATEGY PUZZLES

MEET THE MENSA TEAM, CHILD GENIUS PRODUCERS AND OTHER FAMILIES

DATE: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
 VENUE: London W2

For ENQUIRIES or to REGISTER for this event:  
 EMAIL [child.genius@walltowall.co.uk](mailto:child.genius@walltowall.co.uk) TEL 0207 241 9225  
 For children aged 8-12 but siblings are welcome to attend

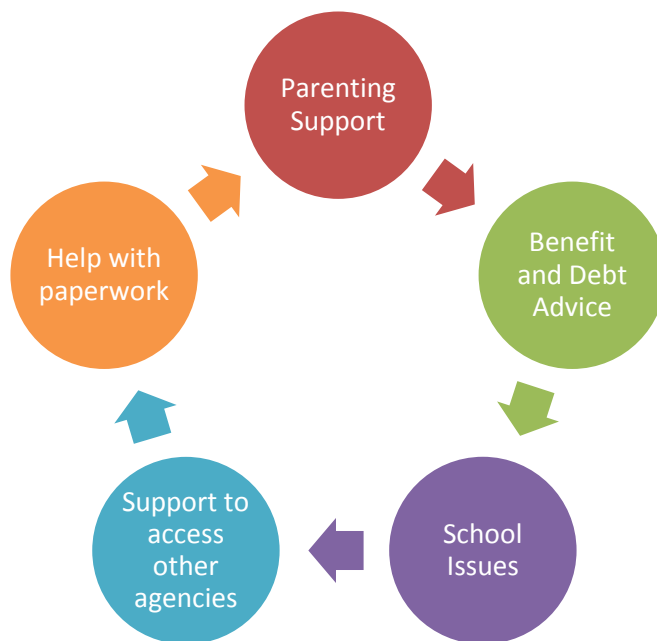
\*Please be aware of age restrictions on social media  
[www.facebook.com/childgeniusuk/](http://www.facebook.com/childgeniusuk/) @childgeniusuk



# FAMILY SUPPORT DROP IN SESSIONS

Drop in for advice and support on a variety of issues

with our Family Support Worker – Sarah Casey



## UPCOMING DROP IN SESSIONS:

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 9-10am and 2-3.20pm

Alternatively, you can contact the school office on 0191 488 1941 to book an appointment