

PALACE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Feedback is a Gift!

“You’re so clever”, “That wasn’t very good” and “You are getting better”. These were some of the comments I received from the teachers in assembly on Monday when I showed how far (or not!) my juggling had progressed. I am sure they are all phrases that resonate with you at some level, having heard them when you were at school. But what does that really do?

The first made me feel good – although I had only juggled for a couple of cycles, so was I really that clever? Now I was doubting myself. On my next turn, I was not as good, and I was told exactly that! It was honest, but not helpful. The last was somewhere in the middle. It did; however, leave me confused. What was better? How was I better?

We then talked about what the problem was with the feedback I had been given. Regardless of how the feedback made me feel, none of it was helpful! It didn’t help me get better at juggling. It didn’t tell me what I needed to do to improve. It didn’t give me any strategies to improve. It didn’t identify something specific that I was doing wrong. I definitely wasn’t going to be getting any better at juggling with the feedback I was given.

I explained to the children how important good quality feedback was. How it could help to move learning on, but only when it was done right. We agreed the feedback should be:

- Constructive – it needs to give the person something to work on that is challenging but achievable
- Honest – if it is good, then we can say that it is, but if not, we should say that it is not.
- Focused – give the person something specific, not general, to work on

Feedback is so important in the learning journey. Much of what we do will be ‘on the spot’ verbal feedback for children so that they have the opportunity to put it into practice straight away.

I’ll leave you with my favourite quote about feedback:

“Some people would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism”

If you would like any further information on feedback, and how you can support your child at home with good quality, effective feedback, then please let us know.

Palace Wood Spring Clean Up

Unfortunately, due to the forecast of 50mph winds, we have decided to postpone the Palace Wood Clean Up.

Having such a large site is a real blessing – but it does mean that keeping everything looking as good as we want it to is a challenge. We really want to give the furniture in the playgrounds and the EYFS outdoor area a new lease of life. We would be so grateful if, when we publish the rearranged date, you could give any time to help us cut back some branches, paint some furniture and offer suggestions on how to improve the site further.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Superstar Corner

Isaac in Giraffes was awarded his yellow stripe belt in taekwondo this week. Milo in Monkeys was over the moon to get his red belt in kickboxing. Charlotte in Zebra's class received Star of the Week for ballet and tap

Alfie and Percy - Attendance and Punctuality

Percentage Attendance		Number of Lates	
Sheeran	96.7	Sheeran	3
Yarnold	96.3	Yarnold	5
Hawking	97.1	Hawking	7
Rowling	95.4	Rowling	5

Overall weekly Attendance - 96.4%

Attendance

Hawking win this week's attendance, and **Sheeran** win punctuality.

Parent Consultations

It was lovely to see so many of you at Parent Consultations this week. We hope that you found them useful in receiving updates about your child's learning. If you were unable to make it, please make sure you contact your child's class teacher to see if you can arrange another time to catch up with them.

Please also remember that if you have any questions, or want additional updates on how your child is doing, we are more than happy to accommodate this. It can be as simple as catching your child's teacher at the door at the start or end of the day, or, if you feel like you need a bit more time, arrange a meeting with them.

Thank you also for completing our questionnaires. We have tried to move with the times with an online survey and moving to the iPads meant that we didn't waste any paper so Mrs Kyte was happy too! We will let you know the outcomes of the survey soon.

Beware – low flying brooms!

The whole school were transported into the magical world of Hogwarts this week when we were visited by 'Kidditch'. We had seekers, the golden snitch and all of your favourite Harry Potter characters 'flying' around the hall on brooms, trying to help their house win the House Cup. It looked like such amazing fun and the children were so engaged with the activity. Check out Twitter for some of the pictures!

Friends Quiz Night, 22nd March 7.15pm

Next Friday is the Friends Quiz night. This promises to be great fun although I am a little worried. Having entered along with some colleagues, I feel that the pressure is

really on. Provided the questions are about things that 4-11 year olds need to know, I think we'll be fine – otherwise, I fear we could be in trouble!

There are a few tables left so if you would like to enter a team (max 8 people), please drop an envelope, marked Quiz, to the office with your names and £5 per person a.s.a.p. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

We hope that you can make it, even if it is just to see a table of teachers squirm!

And finally

Stay safe in the blustery conditions!

Have a great weekend!

Mr Chatley

Letters home this week:

Yr 5/6 Cancellation of Netball Club
 Yr 3/4 Tri-Golf Club
 Yr 3-6 Book Club
 All Red Nose Day
 Spring Clean-Up
 PE Kits
 Consultations
 EYFS Phonics Cafe
 Peng's Flood

Dates for your Diary (new dates in red)

25-28 March Book Fair in Oaks
 Tue 26 March Yr 1 to Allington Castle
 Weds 27 Mar Year 3 Easter Performance
 Tue 2 April EYFS to Ottenden
 8-22 April Easter Holidays