



SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs N. Greenough

29th September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to another school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful Summer break. We have had a very busy start to the new term - welcoming our new pupils into Year 6 and establishing our new routines. I wanted to keep parents and carers up-to-date on matters within school and provide some advance notice for forth-coming events.

Site Changes:

We have had lots of work done over the Summer Holiday to make improvements to the school site. All our lights have been changed to LED to get better value from energy bills and improve the light quality in learning spaces. We have also removed the cloakrooms and replaced them with lockers – we have already seen a big reduction in lost property and we have made some new learning spaces. The school has had a fresh coat of paint and we have put up Growth Mindset inspirational quotes around the school to remind pupils that anything is possible when you learn from your mistakes. Some of these pieces have been incorporated with Art work produced by current pupils which looks stunning. We continue to operate a one-way system at busy times for health and safety reasons but pupils can cut through the shared area at other times.

Keeping Children Safe on line:

We have reminded all pupils about how to report any concerns around safeguarding. All pupils have had a recap about staying safe online and Year 6 have been shown how to identify concerns online if accessing social media sites. I would ask all parents to continue to be vigilant around social media sites and to ensure children use messaging and posting forums responsibly and respectfully. As part of our new Community Hub (The Bridge), which seeks to provide local services to families within our community, we are hosting an event in November on how parents can help keep children safe online. We will have practical help on how to set up safety systems on devices at home from experts within our region. This event will take place on: **8th November 2017 6pm-8pm**. More details will follow closer to the time.

Trips:

As part of our core offer at Scissett Middle School, we would like all pupils to have the experience of going on a residential at the end of Year 8. This opportunity not only develops independence but is also an opportunity to make lasting memories. This year we will be running two residential trips in Year 8. As well as the traditional French trip, we will also be running an activities trip to Kingswood, Doncaster. In Year 6, we will be running the Harry Potter Studios trip in July. Year 7 will visit Quarry Bank Mill and Year 8 go to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Any children who currently receive Free School Meals, will be able to qualify for a



subsidy on any of these trips. If parents have concerns around the cost of trips please contact school to discuss further.

Buses

As the parents of children who travel to school on the public service buses know, we continue to have problems due to a changed service; reduction in buses and punctuality. I share parents' frustration with the quality of service which is offered and we have been working hard to try and get Metro to take on board our concerns. I know many parents have been in contact with Local Councillors, as have we at the school, and this seems to be having some impact. We have heard today that the service from Upper Denby will be brought forward by ten minutes to enable pupils to get to school on time – we will notify parents when we get clarification from the company as to when this will happen but it is hoped that this will be in the next few weeks. There are also additional options being explored for the bus which brings pupils from Flockton. I would encourage any parents who continue to have concerns around the buses to register their concerns with Metro and with Local Counsellors.

Charity Work:

As Year 8 parents will be aware, in the last week of term, Year 7 classes were each given £30 and asked to raise as much money as they could for a given charity. This was done as part of the Summer Fayre which was massively supported by parents and pupils from other year groups. Pupils raised the following amounts of money:

8MO	Welcome Centre	£215
8NR	Dreamflight	£163
8RJ	Water Aid	£164
8RP	Denby Dale Centre	£211
8SB	Forget me Not	£160
8TF	Ethiopia (Dukem)	£199
8TM	Chernobyl	£171

In total, pupils raised nearly £1500 for charity which is a fantastic achievement and clearly demonstrates what great entrepreneurs they are. We are also very grateful to families who contributed clothes to Chernobyl; food to the Food bank; outgrown school shoes and outgrown uniform for the Uniform Exchange as well as all the extras brought in by children to help raise funds. Pupils at Scissett Middle School continue to amaze me with their kindness, generosity and thoughts for others who may be less fortunate than themselves. Learning about these charities and proactively supporting them, allows our young people to develop greater skills of empathy and compassion – essential in early adolescence.

Improving communication:

As a school we are constantly looking at ways to improve our communication with home. We have set up a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/scissettmiddle/?fref=nf>) and a Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/ScissettMiddle> or @ScissettMiddle. We will use this as an extra channel of communication to keep parents up to date on forthcoming events and successes in school. More details will follow shortly.



Up-coming events:

A full calendar of events will shortly be available on the website/Facebook and will be emailed out to parents. Upcoming dates for your diary include:

- 29th September (8am-8.45am)** – Macmillan Coffee morning
- 12th October (5.30-7.30pm)** – Open Evening for prospective parents
- 20th October (Friday)** – Break up for half term
- 30th October (Monday)** – Return from half term
- 8th November (6pm-8pm)**– E-safety information evening
- 24th November** – Christmas Fayre
- 28th/29th November** – Year 8 Parents’ Evenings
- 8th December** – Senior Citizens Coffee Morning

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support.

Kind regards



Mrs N Greenough
Headteacher

