



# The Two Way Street

Welcome back to school after a wet and windy Christmas break. We have certainly had our fair share of rain this year and we hope that snow is not about to follow! Due to the amount of rain we have had, the playground has become rather muddy in places and with the added ingredient of leaves, parts are also quite slippery. Accidents inevitably occur during playtimes and lunchtimes for our lively pupils, so it may be beneficial to put a pair of tracksuit bottoms into your child's PE bag so that in the event of a fall, he/she can get changed into something that is clean, dry and fits perfectly (please remember to put your child's name in!).



Once again, we have a number of lost property items in school (including pairs of shoes!) all of which are not labelled and so cannot be returned. The lost property box will be housed in the reception area for the next few weeks so that you can have a look at your leisure for any mislaid items. After this, the box will be emptied and the new cycle can start once again (unless you label everything!)

## Cool Kids

At the beginning of this academic year, all our staff undertook training to be able to deliver a programme called '**Cool Kids**'. This name has historically been used by many organisations over the years from after school clubs, fashion outlets and behaviour groups to American hip hop duos and party entertainers! In this school, it is not related to any of those!

In school, we want to do the best for all our children. All our pupils are treated as individuals and as such are taught according to their needs. Cool Kids may not work well for all children, but it is worth a try for some and the worst case scenario is that they will have had fun!

*What does the Cool Kids programme support?*

- Self-esteem and confidence building
- Language development
- Organisational skills, planning and sequencing
- Sensory processing and perceptual difficulties
- Gross and fine motor control
- Dyslexic and dyspraxic traits                   ...to name a few!

As you can see, the programme covers a very wide range of skills! If your child has been selected to do the programme, it may well be for one of the reasons shown above. Please note **THIS IS NOT A PROGRAMME FOR 'NAUGHTY CHILDREN'!** We are aware that this terminology has been discussed in the playground during drop off and



collection times. We have only carried out one cycle of Cool Kids so far in school and the results were excellent. The children noticed the difference, as did staff and parents. Questionnaires are completed by all parties at the beginning and the end of the cycle to assess impact. We have been so pleased with the programme that we have decided to carry on running it so that others may benefit. At this point, we felt that it was important for all parents and children to understand a bit more about it so that any misconceptions can be corrected and untrue rumours stopped.

Cool Kids is a specifically planned exercise programme that contains a wide variety of practical activities which enables children to use their bodies effectively. It has been proven to influence a child's physical development and performance in school. The children participating will have fun, and in turn, could improve their learning outcomes, engage better in classes and have empowered concentration and self-esteem. The programme happens over a period of 26 sessions, usually lasting around 20 minutes each day. The allocated time slot in school is straight after lunch when the music room is free (we need mats and benches, so the programme has to be carried out indoors). The children do not miss any of their key lessons and so far, all children that have participated have been keen and happy to do so!

If anyone has concerns about any aspect of school life, please come in and talk to us first (or email us via the Two Way Street contact address, which is at the bottom of the newsletter)– historically, information that is obtained from secondary sources tends to be inaccurate and distorted! We want you to have all the information first hand, with clarity and in context.

### **Hot off the press news!**

This term, we will be operating an online booking system for parents evening so that you can pick your appointment time from the comfort of your own home – very useful for busy working parents who struggle to get into school! This is in response to feedback we had from Issue 11 of the Two Way Street. However, don't worry if you cannot access a computer as you can still book your appointment through Reception. This way, you can pick a specific appointment and not worry that your child will lose the slip of paper. More details will follow nearer the time so look out for the notification.

Our last piece of news is related to the school website. We are currently swapping over to a new platform that will be clearer, quicker and easier to navigate. Once we have transferred all the data, we will be having a re-launch. Watch this space!

If you have any comments, concerns or questions - why don't you email us on our address specifically for the 'Two Way Street'

**Email address:**

[twowaystreet@st-johns.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:twowaystreet@st-johns.walsall.sch.uk)



hi

