



# West Park

*'A caring school where we put pupils and their achievement first'*

West Road  
Spondon  
Derby  
DE21 7BT

**Head:** **Scott McGregor**  
**Tel:** (01332) 662337  
**Fax:** (01332) 280767  
**email:** [info@westpark.derby.sch.uk](mailto:info@westpark.derby.sch.uk)

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18<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear West Park Families

I hope that you are all keeping well and finding some things to be positive about as our country appears to lurch from one crisis to another. It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of our first half-term after our return from the long summer break. It has been absolutely fantastic to have some kind of normality and to see staff and pupils being able to enjoy a wide range of shared experiences. I hope that you have an enjoyable half-term when it arrives and that our children (particularly our newest recruits!) get some time to rest and recover away from the busyness of life at West Park.

Our community is really thriving again and this starts everyday from first thing in the morning. Pupils can access breakfast, with a wide range of items on offer, from 8 a.m. in the main hall. We also have a funded breakfast club which takes place daily in our rewards room. If you have any questions about how you can access this service please contact Miss Clamp, Assistant Head Teacher.

This vibrant start to the day has been replicated for other pupils with our first round of Epraise tutor group awards. The leading Epraise points winning form class in each year group have enjoyed a VIP breakfast with music, Belgian waffles, sausage cobs and sweet treats. These rewards will continue throughout the year as we monitor Epraise points at pupil, form class, year group and house level. It has been brilliant to see how pupils have engaged with Epraise and to see the positive impact that this has had on so many of our amazing pupils.

As Epraise becomes embedded across the school, allowing staff to continually recognise and reward pupils, we will be stopping our Feel Good Friday awards. Feel Good Friday has worked brilliantly as we have battled through the pandemic but we are delighted that our rewards and recognitions can now be centralised into one system. As we move into next half-term, our Epraise shop will be populated with items ranging from metallic water bottles and house T-shirts to a range of unique experiences. Epraise points also feed into our house competitions with the Big House Quiz taking place this week and secretive preparations are already being planned for the House Christmas Karaoke. Some of the staff will need significant support from their pupils to enliven their subdued or often incorrect lyrics! I have made the decision to be part of all five houses which ensures that I will be part of the winning team and allows me to take on the role of Simon Cowell rather than destroying a festive favourite!

## **Non-Uniform Days**

As we continue to work across our community, we have two non-uniform days fast approaching. As usual, we will ask for a £1 donation through ParentPay with all proceeds going to organisations which link to members of the West Park community. The non-uniform days are:

- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October                      British Heart Foundation
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November                 Children in Need

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November there will be an opportunity for pupils to bring some loose change into school. The house teams will be running a range of events including cover the Pudsey and a cake sale. Further information will be released at the start of the new half-term.

## **BBC Visit**

We were absolutely delighted to welcome the BBC to West Park on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October. The BBC selected schools to visit from across the UK as part of their 100-year anniversary. The BBC set up was incredibly engaging (they put my assemblies to shame) with modern technology utilised to inspire our pupils. BBC ambassadors told their stories of overcoming childhood adversity and our pupils asked a range of considerate and thought-provoking questions. The BBC loved the energy in our school and are keen to visit again when the opportunity comes about.

## **Community Cohesion**

It has been fantastic to be able to welcome members of the local community into the school during the first seven weeks of this academic year. Our post-16 evening led by our new Careers Lead, Daniel Pikett, was a brilliant event with over 20 providers in attendance to talk to pupils and their families about options, post 16. This is an event that will continue to grow year on year and provides the opportunity for Year 10 and Year 11 pupils to talk to businesses, colleges, schools and universities in the comfort of their own school.

Our Eco-shop is now well established and opens every Thursday and Friday from 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. during term time only. We are delighted that we have made such a positive start and we have new customers every week alongside a happy band of regular visitors. I am very grateful to Spondon Relief in Need charity who have supported us with set up costs and donations of stock. Please do come down to see us in the shop and benefit from some very low cost, high quality food items. We have also received a 5-star food hygiene rating for this new provision!

As we continue establishing links with our local community, it is crucial that we all do our bit to support each other and our local environment. I was very disappointed to hear that there has been significant littering in the sensory garden in the centre of Spondon and I would ask all families to discuss the importance of maintaining the area that we live and work in.

E-scooters are very popular with our young people even if they do provide a silent trip hazard when I am out running. However, with a focus on pupil and community safety, pupils are not allowed to ride their e-scooters to school. This is not a significant issue for us with only a small number of pupils requiring an occasional reminder. I can confidently say that I will not have an e-scooter on my Christmas list this year!

## **School Tours**

I have had the pleasure of touring around our school with prospective pupils and their families over the last few weeks. It is always great to see our school in action and visitors always talk so positively about the calm and productive ethos that is evident across the school. We set high standards for our pupils and this permeates through what makes West Park such a special place.

Take care of yourselves and I look forward to seeing you at a range of events across this school year.

Kind Regards



Scott McGregor  
Head