



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

12th March 2026

Dear West Park Families

It has been a busy week as we continue with normal school life, alongside taking appropriate steps to counter act the on-going red/blue 'school wars' trend. As always, I could not be more impressed by our fantastic pupils. Despite a number of them being understandably anxious about the situation, they have gone about their school days unperturbed, still happy to stop for a chat and a kind word when I have seen them around the site. West Park life always provides a balance when we are facing challenges outside of school.

This week I have had the joy of African drumming with Year 7, supporting Year 11 with revision strategies and having a kick around with some pupils on the green at the top of Chad! They told me that they thought I was 32! I will be popping by there daily!

This half-term is passing by at a pace and we break up for Easter two weeks tomorrow. Year 11 are pushing towards their final exams, Year 9 have completed their option choices and Year 6 pupils in the local primary schools have been informed if they have a place with us in September, commencing their journey into West Park life. There is also a place for fun, recognition and celebration as we host our first ever 'West Park's Got Talent' finals night on Wednesday 18th March. Friday 20th March is Red Nose Day and we will be running a non-uniform day, cake sale and Big Red Nose Day raffle, alongside other events.

In relation to 'school wars', I have just attended an online briefing with Derbyshire Police. This week police have visited children and adults who have set up 'school wars' Snapchat groups in Derby/Derbyshire. These issues are not isolated to Derby and have spread across the country. A 13-year-old in Yorkshire has been arrested and reprimanded for inciting violence.

As we move towards the end of the week, local police and staff will continue to have a presence in the local community. With varying school finish times on Friday, we will have a 3.00 p.m. finish for all. There will be no after-school clubs, catchups or detentions tomorrow.

This trend has emphasised the power and dangers of social media. Please monitor your child's activity online. We have been made aware of TikToks that have been published online with images of school staff. We have contacted TikTok to have these accounts taken down. We will follow this up with action in school and with the police if the individuals responsible can be identified.

We are also working with the police to identify an individual who is sending anonymous, abusive emails to staff. Again, please talk to your child about the implications of this.

We now live in a society that straddles the real and virtual world. Children are experts in this virtual world and can navigate their way around it in ways that we can only dream of. However, there is and always will be a huge place for human interaction. Those wonderful simple moments that we share with those we love, which provide memories that are far more powerful than a website, a chat bot or an algorithm.

Thank you for your support this week.

I hope you have a cracking weekend when it arrives.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott McGregor', written in a cursive style.

Scott McGregor
Head