

# MAGDALEN GATES PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

## NEWS BULLETIN 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

Dear parents and carers,

The events of the last two weeks have highlighted the importance and value of every member of the school community. Whether we are thinking about school staff, children, parents or governors, every person is equally valued and respected. It is having compassion for the individual and the quality of every interaction that enables us to give every child (and adult) the best every single day. Thank you for your contributions towards this goal. At this point I have some sad news to share. On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Satvear Wahiwala died following a long illness. During her 17 years in the school, Satvear made a positive impact on hundreds of children and families, not least in her role as School Counsellor. We will all miss her greatly. We shall be consulting with all stakeholders to identify the most appropriate way to remember Satvear in school. Thank you in anticipation for your contributions to this process.

Mr Hutchinson

### SEN Support at Magdalen Gates

As you may already know, Mr Turnpenny is the school's SENDCo (Special Educational Needs & Disability Co-ordinator) He oversees the provision for children who, for one reason or another, might be struggling with their learning. A special educational need means when a pupil needs help which is additional to or different from the support generally given to pupils of the same age. Special educational needs can occur for all sorts of reasons; they can crop up at any time. With the right support, we can help children overcome these needs and make good progress. We work very hard to identify these needs early and come up with creative ways to help our children access their learning. One of the most important aspects of this is our work with families – you know your child better than anyone. If you are concerned about your child's learning please do get in touch by emailing [office@magdalengates.co.uk](mailto:office@magdalengates.co.uk) for an appointment to have a chat with Mr Turnpenny.

### Attendance

Thank you to all our parents/carers for their continued support with our efforts to help raise attendance. We appreciate this has been particularly difficult the last few weeks following an increase in illness, seen not only in our school and the local community but neighbouring schools too.

A requirement by the Local Authority is that schools continue to monitor attendance regularly and this includes punctuality.

A reminder also that it is the expectation that parents collect children at the end of the day promptly. If you are running late please ring and inform the school office as soon as you can.

Whole School Attendance 91%

### Children's Mental Health Week

This week is Children's Mental Health week and the theme this year is "My Voice Matters."

We have recently conducted a pupil survey to find out the views, feelings and opinions of the children at Magdalen Gates. We will build their feedback into our planning so that the children know that their voice matters to us.

Monday – Introduction to Mental Health week in an assembly from Mr Hutchinson. Wednesday – Wellbeing Wednesday with activities in class on the theme of 'My Voice Matters'. One activity that all classes will be doing is refreshing our safety hands with the names of our five trusted adults. Wednesday Year 6 Kooth workshop about how to use our voices and make ourselves heard. If you would like to continue the learning at home here are some useful links:

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/themes/happiness-and-wellbeing/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://thismayhelp.me/all-advice-films/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/mindfulness-for-children>

<https://www.childmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

### Diary Dates

#### February

5<sup>th</sup> – Children's Mental Health week

8<sup>th</sup> – Yr3 trip to The Garage WOW

12<sup>th</sup> Hearing and Vision screening for EYFS pupils

14<sup>th</sup> Dental Oral Health Talk to all EYFS & KS1 pupils

16<sup>th</sup> Last Day before half term

**Half Term 19<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> February**

26<sup>th</sup> – School re-opens

28<sup>th</sup> – Yr3/Yr4 How Hill Residential

#### March

5<sup>th</sup> Yr2 – Mars Day event

7<sup>th</sup> – World Book Day – more details to follow

11-15<sup>th</sup> – Yr6 Horstead Residential

19<sup>th</sup> – Yr1 Trip to Bridewell Museum

22<sup>nd</sup> – School Reports home

27<sup>th</sup> – School Closes for Easter Break