



Akrotiri School

Friday Feeling

#020

Friday 11 February

Having now joined the growing club of people to have contracted the COVID virus, it has forced me to withdraw from social contact, yet afforded me the time to reflect. Ironic that this comes at a time when we are promoting children's mental health week, as I am experiencing first-hand the impact of isolation, frustration, anxiety and fatigue. Whilst this, I hope, is short lived for me, I know that there are many children who battle with these barriers daily. I recently mentioned the great work that our pastoral provision does in mitigating this impact and the ethos and culture which permeates the school to support healthy minds.

Next week, on Friday 18 Feb, we will promote anti-bullying by expressing ourselves. Bullying tends to manifest when people are seen as different, either in the way they appear, the way they think or because of their 'different' interests or beliefs. Promoting understanding, tolerance and individuality is a way that we can work together to wipe out bullying. 'Dress to Express' is designed to allow children, and staff, to come into school dressed in a way that celebrates their individuality, either through representation of their interests or their personality. It will be a tremendous way for us to share and celebrate our individuality and recognise that, in fact, we are all equally different.

We are always keen to reach out beyond the school boundary to gain additional support to help us achieve our aims and strengthen the positive ethos and culture. The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a great way to achieve this, and they are currently looking for new members. If you would like to find out more, please contact Roy (roy.akers670@mod.gov.uk) in the first instance - you will be more than welcome.

The road safety committee continues to develop initiatives and support us in promoting safe use of the roads. I am hopeful that we will have several projects coming up soon which will further strengthen safety on the roads. Equally, as adults we have a part to play; SBA Police officer Lucy has recently reminded children of the height rules for booster seats in cars and asked that the message was reinforced with parents. Children under the height of 150cm should use a booster seat whilst travelling in a car. Thank you for your support.

Coming up in school we have a number of events in addition to 'Dress to Express'. World book day will be celebrated on 3 March (more information to follow), careers week is the week commencing 7 March and we look forward to the upcoming programme of residentials resuming after half term - thank you for sending in consent forms and deposits.

Finally, this week, we say goodbye to Mrs Tracey Clifford. Mrs Clifford has been a wonderful member of the FS team and has been integral to the tremendous changes that have taken place since September. Thank you for your support and hard work - we wish you all the best for the future.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Ben Turner
Headmaster

