

## William Penn Newsletter

### 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019

#### Restorative Practice

Our pupils have written the following guide to Restorative Practice to explain how it works.

### Restorative Practice at William Penn Primary School

#### A Guide Written by the Pupils

At William Penn School we believe it is important that children feel safe and have a positive environment to play and learn in. Our Quaker Values promote Peace, Equality, Friendship, Integrity, Simplicity and Reflection. Our members of staff and pupils have been trained in using the restorative approach to solving issues and we would like to tell you a bit more about it.

#### What does Restorative Practise (RP) look like in school?

Our RP approach is a way to resolve problems or differences without simply getting 'told off'. By asking questions we find out what's happened and what we need to do to put things right, RP makes us think about what has happened and helps us make better choices in the future. This calm, restorative approach to behaviour is at the heart of our school. The ways that we use Restorative Practice are displayed around the school and act as a reminder that all children are entitled to a healthy, happy and safe environment.

#### What are the RP Questions?

- What happened?
- What were you thinking/feeling?
- What needs to happen to put things right?
- What are you going to do differently next time?

#### Is the Restorative Practice approach the easy option?

The short answer is 'no'.

Here at William Penn we believe the RP approach is a peaceful way to resolve problems that may occur inside the classroom or during playtimes. Some of our comments are included below:

"No, because an adult and the children sit down and talk about what has happened. We go through the RP questions to see the two different sides of the story." Eryn, Year 6.

"Instead of just getting told off, we go through the RP questions. It isn't always easy saying that you have done something wrong. You have to think about your own behaviour." Anna, Year 6.

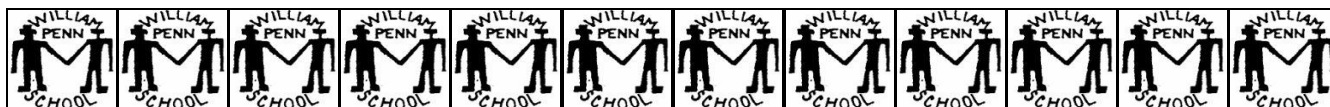
"We use our Quaker values e.g. honesty and integrity. We have to be honest about our choices" Elizabeth and Ethan, Year 4.

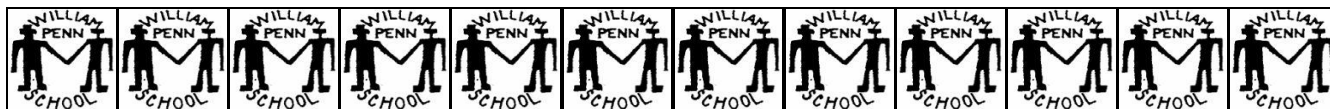
#### What is the job of a Peer Mentor?

The Peer Mentor group have received training to ensure they have the skills to help others effectively. The job of the Peer Mentor is to provide advice and support and serve as role models for younger children and peers. Peer mentoring provides positive experience for people who may benefit from help, attention and support from a peer mentor. The Peer Mentors can resolve smaller issues on the playground through asking the RP questions.

#### Do we think it is an effective approach?

Staff and children of the school feel it is an effective approach as it allows them to solve problems in a calm way. The reflection time provides opportunity for everyone to stop and think about what has happened in order to try and prevent it from happening again. Although it may be difficult to measure the effectiveness of the approach, our 'Parent Surveys' show that in 2018, 100% of parents said that the school achieves high standards of behaviour. This is an increase of 13% on the previous year. This shows greatest impact so far.





## Awards

We are very proud to have been recognised with a Peaceful Schools Project award for our work on introducing Restorative Practice to enhance the effectiveness of our behaviour management in school. This of course relates to our Quaker foundation and core values of our school.

The children are also extremely proud of their 'Silver: Rights Respecting Schools Award' which embeds children's rights in the school's policy, practice and ethos. The children are aware of their rights and therefore other children's rights. It is important for them to know that everyone has the right to learn, following class rules in a positive way. Children at William Penn talk freely about their rights and are aware that these rights are not earned and likewise cannot be taken away from them. They therefore do not come with responsibilities but mutual respect which informs practice and relationships in school. It has also been beneficial for children to see how the rights closely link to our Quaker Values for example, respect, equality and simplicity all interlink with the rights and our school values. Restorative Practice encourages children to think about their rights, school values and behaviour.

## Staff Update

Please be reminded that Ms Passfield will commence her maternity leave at the end of this week and we send very best wishes with her. We will, of course, share updates with you in due course. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Spooner to the staff team next week.

In further news, Mrs Katherine Randell will also be starting as a teaching assistant, initially until the end of the summer term, on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March. We look forward to welcoming her.

Mrs Ritchie will also be moving on to a new challenge after the Easter holidays and we wish her well with her next career move. Owing to the difficulties of recruiting at short notice, we will have some changes to where class teachers are based for the summer term. With the aim of all children being known by their teachers and ensuring continuity of provision, Mrs Sillett will remain in Fox with Mrs Baker (Monday-Wednesday) and Mrs Peters will teach Fry with Ms Parrish-Vick (Thursday and Friday) and Mrs Constable will teach JBB. The children's routines and class bases will remain unchanged.

## Olympian Visits William Penn

On Wednesday we had a very special visitor to the school. Ezekiel "Zeeks" Ewulo a British and Nigerian long jumper came in to do sponsored PE circuits with the children. We raised a fantastic amount of money that will help support athletes in training and will also give us some money to be put back into school resources. Thank You to the staff, pupils, parents and friends of William Penn for making this event so successful. The children had a great morning and were really inspired by Zeeks and his

journey in athletics and as he trains for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics!

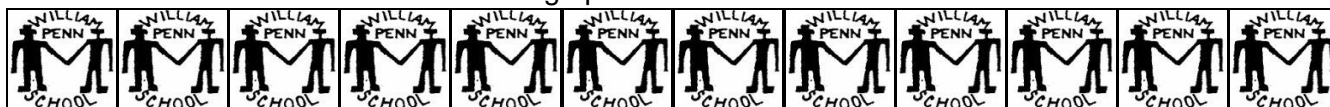


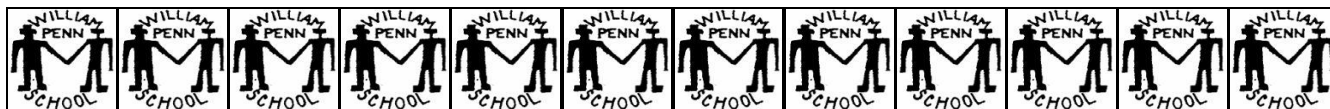
WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

## World Book Day Reminder

World Book Day will be held at William Penn Primary on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March and to celebrate we are holding some special events in school on this day.

As usual staff will be dressing up as one of their favourite book characters. Please can we





ask that all children come dressed up too and bring along the accompanying book for their character, if you have this.

There will also be a bring and buy book sale, held at the end of the day. For this to be a success, we would appreciate your donations of a used book (or as many books as you would like to donate). They will be on sale under the canopy from 3:00 pm. There will be no fixed price, allowing people to decide themselves what they would like to donate in exchange for their book. All proceeds will be split between Comic Relief and school funds.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Constable

### **In further book related news...**

*At Billingshurst Library we're running a special 'B is for Birds' after-school story time for children on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 3.45pm-4.30pm. This fun event, with stories and crafts, is being held as part of the Horsham District Year of Culture.*

### **Email Contacts**

We believe that all our parents with email access are now able to receive electronic communication. However, if this is not the case – either regarding your own access or someone you know – please contact Mrs Stephenson so that she can liaise with the provider to reach a resolution for you.

### **Safeguarding Update – Internet Safety**

Following a very informative presentation by e-safe on the subject of safe internet use by children and advice for parents, we have added some of the follow up materials to our website. Please use the following link:

[http://www.williampenn.co.uk/website/child\\_protection\\_and\\_safeguarding/7394](http://www.williampenn.co.uk/website/child_protection_and_safeguarding/7394)

### **Pupil Achievements**

If you have any pupil achievements that you would like mentioned in the newsletter, please e-mail the office: [office@williampenn.co.uk](mailto:office@williampenn.co.uk)

