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Anti-Bullying Newsletter – September 2017



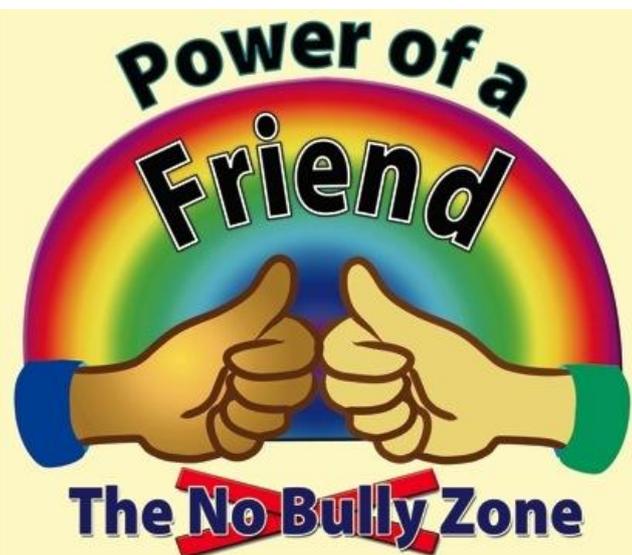
Welcome to our first Anti-Bullying newsletter!

Here at Howley Grange we take pride in the anti-bullying work that we do to ensure all pupils feel safe, happy and knowledgeable on how to recognise bullying. As part of this work every year, year 6 pupils are asked to apply for the role of 'anti-bullying buddies' and a group is chosen. Next month our newly appointed buddies will be receiving training on peer support, resilience and assertiveness from a charity called 'Believe to Achieve.' They will then be ready to patrol the bustling playground offering support to their peers experiencing friendship problems.



The 'Anti-Bullying Buddies' are only part of the school's work on tackling and reducing bullying. To celebrate the work that is done we will be applying for 'The Anti-Bullying Quality Mark' (ABQM) towards the end of the year. This is a national accreditation, which recognises the work schools are doing to ensure the children come to a safe and secure environment. Mrs Trueman and Miss Adams are leading the work, along with a steering group, made up of a variety of school community members: Y6 pupil representatives, teachers, teaching assistants, non-teaching staff members (lunchtime staff), parents and a parent governor (Sam Jones). We have written a detailed action plan, which covers all aspects of school life.

The ABQM steering group will meet each half term to monitor and support the development of practice across school. We are working towards achieving the Bronze Award at present and will hopefully have our assessment visit later this year.



Anti-bullying policy

As part of our accreditation, the first job for our steering group was to review our current anti-bullying policy and write a child friendly version. We started this last week with lots of ideas shared. The steering group are invited to give feedback on the reviewed policy, as part of the review process. We will keep you updated as the new policy will be shared with all staff and parents soon!



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This is what our Anti-Bullying Buddies at Howley Grange have said they're looking forward to:

'As a buddy this year I am looking forward to helping people and getting special training from a pro!' Y6 pupil.

'I am really excited because we get to do assemblies and make posters that will help people if they're sad or lonely.' Year 6 pupil

The steering group carried out an **Anti-Bullying Pupil Questionnaire**. This shows our starting point and we will repeat it again in the summer term.

78% said there are not enough anti-bullying posters or leaflets around school, so we need to make sure we promote these more – we have some but clearly need more!

We're looking forward to Anti-Bullying week!

This year Anti-Bullying week will be on 13th-17th November. This is always an important date in our school calendar and this year is no exception. There will be a host of curriculum activities going on in classrooms along with whole school assemblies and hopefully the launch of the 'Anti-Bullying Buddies' into the playground following their training.

We look forward to sharing with you the exciting events in our next Anti-Bullying Newsletter.



Useful links for Anti-bullying:

Anti-Bullying Alliance for Parents:

<http://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/advice/parents-carers/anti-bullying-tool-for-parents/>

Anti-Bullying Alliance for Children:

<http://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/advice/children-young-people/>

Our Online Safety page:

<http://www.howleygrange.co.uk/parents/esafety-for-parents.html>

More information on our progress towards the Anti-Bullying Quality Mark will be available next half term.



We are aiming for bronze – watch this space!

If you have concerns that your child may be being bullied, please contact your class teacher immediately, so that we can tackle the problem and ensure all our pupils are safe and happy.