

# Monksdown Mail

Where Children Come First

Mrs Russell and
Mrs Stewart
Deputy-Mrs Price

Friday 22nd November 2024

Dear Families of Monksdown,

This week a group of children and staff went to St Georges Hall as part of Liverpool Citizen's Founding Assembly. They went to speak on stage to several prominent people about issues that are concerning them. They spoke on stage in front of over 500 people.

They spoke to Liam Robinson (who is the leader of Liverpool City Council) and asked him to commit to supporting Free School Meets in Liverpool.

The children spoke passionately and we have had letters and phone calls to school expressing how wonderful our pupils were and how well they spoke.

They were the only Primary School in attendance and many of the grown ups who participated said they wish they could be as confident and articulate as our pupils.



Kindest Regards

Mrs Price

## Our Stars!

Nursery	Eden Chan
R1	Harry Powell-Cheung
R2	Leo Moutray
R3	Poppy Wakefield Taylor
1.1	Joseph O'Leary
1.2	Wendy Connolly
1.3	Vicky Chen
2.1	Erin Giles
2.2	Adam Chelkowski
2.3	Oliver Krzewinski
3.1	Aniela Piekarek
3.2	Annie Reid
3.3	Mark Burgess
4.1	Freddie Aspinall
4.2	Bobby Woods
4.3	Kacper Witkowski
5.1	Gabby Lindsay
5.2	John-Paul Donovan
5.3	Kai Norton
6.1	Bernardo Rocon
6.2	AJ Segar Devine
6.3	Alex Luga

#### **Important Dates**

Please see the next page for our full list of December dates





### **Parent Volunteers**



We are looking to have a bank of parent volunteers to assist us on trips. This might be in your own child's class but could be in other year groups. This would involve filling in in a DBS form.

If this sounds like something you are interested in, please request a DBS form from the office. You will need to provide 2 forms of ID when you return the form.

## **Parent webinar**

County Lines in Merseyside

Hosted by Ivison Trust

Register today www.ivisontrust.org.uk/webinars







# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

#### 1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

#### 2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

## 3 PROMOTE ACTIVE

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

## ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

## FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

#### Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.

## STAY CALM AND

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

## START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means — to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

#### SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each another.

#### 9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or chions something hutful.

#### 10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

## ANTI-BULLIVING ALLIANCE CONSCIENCES CONSCI

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at:







