

3 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Over the last three years we have been implementing a whole school nurturing approach to learning and wellbeing. This has included embedding strategies across the school which include every classroom being a predictable, safe base where secure boundaries are set with empathy. Our aim is to help children and young people experience their emotional states safely and calmly where they can learn to regulate their own feelings and emotions with adults that they trust.

As part of this process we were recently assessed by the accredited board of Nurture UK to become the first special school in the country to achieve a 'National Nurturing School' award. To celebrate this award we are holding a Nurture Celebration day on **Friday, 13 March**. All parents are invited to spend time in class with their child and the class team where there will be a variety of nurturing activities taking place. We also invite you to have lunch with the class where we try to resemble a home like atmosphere and promote confidence and independence.

Timings:

- 9.45am-1.00pm First School and Upper School
- 12.00pm-1.00pm Picnic in classes
- 12.00pm- 2.15pm Middle School

(Tea and biscuits will be available throughout the day in the parents' room with Sharon Carrigan, Family Advisor)

I hope to be able to welcome you to the school to celebrate this prestigious award and all the hard work the students and staff have put into making our school as welcoming as possible.

Kind regards



Amelia King
Nurture Leader

**Please return to the School Office, Manor Green School by Friday 6 March
Nurture Celebration**

I/We will be attending between 9.45am and 1pm (First and Upper School)

I/We will be attending between 12.00pm and 2.15pm (Middle school)

What is Nurture?

We believe Nurture is significant in our children's lives; therefore the whole school promotes the six Nurture Principles:

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally

Staff will respond to students not in terms of set expectations about 'attainment levels' but in terms of children's development progress assessed by Boxall profiling.

2. The classroom offers a safe base

The classroom will offer a balance of educational and home like experiences to support the development of the students' relationships with each other and with the staff.

3. Nurture is important for the development of self-esteem

Nurture involves listening and responding with an emphasis on staff engaging with students in give-and-take shared activities.

4. Language is understood as a vital means of communication

Informal opportunities for talking and sharing are as important as the more formal lessons teaching language.

5. All behaviour is communication

Understanding that a student is communicating through behaviour helps staff to respond in a firm but non-punitive way. A student knowing that their feelings are understood can help diffuse difficult situations. Staff respond in a way that is meaningful to the student.

6. Transitions are significant in the lives of children

Staff ensure that all transitions a student makes throughout the day and bigger transitions, for instance class moves, are carefully managed with preparation and support.

We assess the social, emotional and behavioural development of the students using a tool called Boxall Profile. It gives valuable tools to help track and improve any gaps.

The vision for the next three years is to continue to embed our practice of helping students learn to self-regulate, use their curiosity and to improve their self-esteem and develop confidence. We hope to achieve this by improving the partnership with class teachers and parents to enable consistency between home and school. I hope you will be welcoming in this approach.