



Dear Parents/Carers 18th September 2023

Bywell Junior School – Pastoral Support Team

As a school we are very fortunate to have a Pastoral Support Team in addition to the Teaching and Learning Teams of Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants. They are highly skilled and are able to provide a wide variety of emotional and well-being support to pupils and parents.

Miss Dent - supports pupils who are looked after with additional interventions as well as providing emotional support as our school ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) This has a focus on social skills, emotions, bereavement, social stories and therapeutic stories, anger management, self-esteem and friendship. She also works across school in a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) capacity delivering PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education) each week so gets to see all children across the school.

Mrs Allen – works from Tuesday to Friday supporting pupils both in groups and also 1:1 covering all aspects associated with emotion and well-being. Mrs Allen has experience of delivering Play Therapy sessions as well as Lego Therapy and has just recently completed an MSc qualification in Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

Mrs Turver – works in our Blossom Provision in the mornings supporting pupils with bespoke learning. She takes groups and provides 1:1 pastoral support every afternoon. She has experience of encouraging reluctant speakers, bereavement as well as other social and emotional topics eg anxieties, friendships etc. Mrs Turver has completed training in Emotionally based School Avoidance and is one of our Mental Health First Aiders.

Ms Bancroft – is one of our Safeguarding Officers as well as our Family Support Learning Mentor. She is available every day and takes responsibility for working with outside agencies to support families to access advice and services.

Our Learning Mentors support a variety of groups throughout the year focusing on friendships, self-regulation, self-esteem, anxieties etc. This half term there will be a focus on supporting Year 6 and Year 3 with the increased expectations their new classes bring. Other groups include Welcome to Bywell for new pupils, Bee Myself groups, Lego Therapy, and 1:1 sessions if needed.

If your child has been identified for additional pastoral support you will be informed by an additional Ping message

MHST - As a school we are part of MHST - Mental Health Support Teams and we have access to external professionals – Educational Mental Health Practitioners who we are able to refer pupils to if needed after our own in-house support or for more serious emotional or mental health issues. These practitioners then decide if they are able to offer sessions and most often will come into school to meet with pupils. This includes a new Parent and Community Worker - Dee MacLeod who is able to support parents with a wide variety of issues and will be in school at our coffee mornings and available for parents both as a group or individually

Pupil Voice - We have also updated our successful method of pupils having the opportunity every morning to let an adult – in the first instance the Class Teacher and ETA know how they are feeling. In each classroom there will be a **By well-being Wall** for children to indicate they are ready for learning or need to share something by putting a named lolly stick, discretely in the specific holder. This allows the adults to check which pupils just need a quick word or maybe to tell something that is worrying them. The class adults will pass on anything that requires pastoral support to the Learning Mentor Team first thing in the morning as time has been allocated for this.

Please encourage your child to use the By well-being Wall to indicate if they need to just have a quick chat, get something off their chest or need help.

Our school website contains information for parents about workshops, advice and support available from a variety of agencies covering a wide number of areas.

Miss Dent, Mrs Allen, Mrs Turver and myself are in the playground before school if children or parents need a word and Ms Bancroft is to be found at the gate with Ms Adam. Our Learning Mentors are also on playground duty outside every lunchtime so children can approach them informally.

If you require any further information about our pastoral support please do not hesitate to contact us or stop for a chat. Please see your child's class teacher in the first instance as they are the first contact for specific issues.

Thank you for your continuing support

Kind Regards

Mrs Appleyard

Deputy Headteacher

The Pastoral Team

Mrs Allen, Ms Bancroft, Miss Dent and Mrs Turver