

Chisenhale Primary School



Chisenhale PTA Newsletter

Event news, fundraising updates and useful information from the PTA team

Going for gold next Friday, Jan 17th!



Welcome back! We hope you all had a good break. As you may know from the chat from your kids about their rights, Chisenhale is currently in the process of applying for a Gold Rights Respecting School Award. The whole school has been preparing for this over last year and they are really hoping to upgrade their current silver award status. Unicef will be sending an assessor to visit the school **next Friday 17th January** and the children are excited to show off all of their learning about

rights, through rights and advocating for rights around the world. The PTA asked Will Clark how we all could help support the school's Gold bid and he gave us some info...

How parents can help the school to get gold

1. Talk about rights!

You will find a list [here](#) of all of the rights of the child. Please take any opportunity over the next week or so to discuss children's rights and how they relate to events in the news, in films or in your lives.





2. Look for opportunities to support children's rights.

The school works hard to help children feel empowered to make a difference to children's rights on a local and global scale. If you can, chat to the kids about projects that support children's rights.

3. Use the vocabulary of rights.

The school uses certain words and phrases in relation to rights that it is useful for the children to be familiar with:

Equity- the idea that being fair does not mean everyone getting the same but everyone getting what they need to succeed.

Dignity- the idea that at all times people are inherently deserve respectful treatment



Who are the Rights Councillors?



Each class votes to elect a rights councillor to represent their class' voice within the school. This means listening to children's suggestions as to how the school could be even better. The councillors do this through reading the suggestions from the suggestion box in the library as well as taking ideas from their peers in phase assemblies, especially if these suggestions contain a way that children could better enjoy their rights! For example, next half term, the Collective Worship value we are exploring is **Sustainability**, this came up after children suggested they wanted to focus more on environmental concerns on the suggestion slips. As well as empowering their classes' voices, the councillors are also responsible for celebrating rights around the school and will take part in assemblies, judge poster

competitions and act as guides on rights-based days. Our UKS2 Reps took part in a child mental health consultation and mulberry place and the whole lot travelled to Parliament at the start of the year to learn about democracy.

More about Rights Respecting Schools

Unicef works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. The Rights Respecting Schools Award embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens.

The Award recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's planning, policies and practice. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

And finally...



Introducing...

William Clark, who teaches reception. He's the Rights Respecting co-lead with Tracy Miller and has been for the last 3 years. Chisenhale got a bronze in William's second year in the role, and it's a passion project for him. "It makes me feel excited and proud to see children take part in advocacy and activism for their rights at such a young age," he says, "like taking Year 6 on the Climate March."

He's started teaching at Chisenhale six years ago, his first teaching position. Three years in Year 1, now he's in his third year teaching Reception. William chose the school because it focuses on reflective practice, and he is able to continue his research. He did his Masters during his second year at Chisenhale on the transition from Early Years to KS1, during which he learnt more about the power of storytelling for the children. Chisenhale is a Centre for Excellence for [Helicopter Stories](#) and William is a certified trainer and delivers training. He said he loves

teaching both Reception and Year 1,
but said that the children's jokes get
better in Year 1...

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