

27th November 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Parents drop-in session 4th December 2023

I wanted to take the time to write to you about some of the work we have been doing with our students about building culture where all can enjoy learning and succeed. I'm fortunate to see students every day who are proud of our school, proud of their own successes and want to show me the work they have been doing in lessons. We have shared with you the link to our parent voice survey so you can also share your views with us a different way.

On **4th December** I will be holding a parent drop-in session where you can make an appointment to see me 1-1 to discuss anything that you wish to. To make an appointment please contact my assistant Danielle Clifford on dclifford01@beckfootoakbank.org.

Everything we do in school links back to our trust mission, our school sentence, and our values. Our learning habits are underpinned by all of these and set out how we do things here at Beckfoot Oakbank. For your reference I will share them here.

Our Beckfoot Trust mission: Creating remarkable schools where no child is left behind.

Our school sentence: Beckfoot Oakbank School ensured that every child succeeded in education, had a great career and enjoyed life.

Our Beckfoot Oakbank values are enjoy, learn, succeed.

- Enjoy: We enjoy belonging to Beckfoot Oakbank
- Learn: We are all here to learn
- Succeed: We are determined to succeed

Our five learning habits:

- Learning Habit 1. Positive response: *Opening doors, tidying up, using good manners; 'please' and 'thank you'.*
- Learning Habit 2. Perfect uniform
- Learning Habit 3. On task behaviour: *Working hard, taking part, following Learning Modes*
- Learning Habit 4. Punctual to school and lessons: *Arrive to school before 08:20, arrive to lesson before the bell.*
- Learning Habit 5. Equipped for success: *bag, pen, pencil, ruler, planner, mobile phones not seen or heard.*

As we approach the end of this term, we are gearing up for our celebration assemblies which give us another opportunity to recognise those children who are getting it right. I know from their feedback how much the students value this acknowledgement of success.

We regularly share our expectations with students so that they know how they can be successful in their learning and so that we can remove any barriers to this success. It is important for us all to understand that when in school students are expected to be in lessons learning unless it is break or lunchtime. Time out of lessons should not be the norm or the expectation and we know that as we have increased our expectations of what students learn and what they do in lessons some students are finding the increased challenge difficult at times. We know that being expected to know more, remember more and do more is hard and staff will support students with this in a variety of ways.

The majority of our students get it right day in day out and make positive choices – the small number who do not are given opportunities to make the right choice but are clear of the consequences if they do not meet our very simple learning habits. I want to share with you some of the messages our students have been getting from staff so that you can support them to be successful.

Students who demonstrate learning habit one can receive community tickets from any adult in the school – there is a daily prize draw to celebrate this. Students who meet learning habit 3 achieve positive stamps and can go on to receive golden tickets – you can see these via the parent app. So far this academic year we have issued nearly 10,000 golden tickets and nearly 50,000 learning habit 3 stamps – which is impressive.

Students are expected to try their best in every lesson, follow the teacher's seating plan and follow the learning mode at the time. Often students will be asked to spend parts of the lesson working in individual focus. This is a common feature at the starts of lessons but also during lessons. Every week I look forward to seeing student work when I drop into lessons and when they are nominated by their teachers for work of the week!

All students should have a timetable, their planner, equipment, and their school bag with them daily. The tutorial period at the start of the day is the time to address any problems with timetables.

Uniform – students are expected to follow the uniform expectations and those who arrive with non-uniform items will be asked to remove and where necessary will be given clean uniform or shoes to borrow, be asked to go home to change or could be placed in isolation if they choose not to comply. We will happily support any family that needs any help with uniform.

Punctuality to school. All students are expected to be at school prior to the morning Line Up which begins promptly at 8.20am each day and to attend the daily tutorial session. Students who arrive after 8.20am will follow the late to school procedure and will be issued with an after-school detention.

Punctuality to lessons. All students are expected to be in lessons before the late bell rings – there is ample time to transition between lessons. Arriving late to lessons leads to sanctions being implemented. Teachers are expected to take the register at this point in the lesson.

When students are not in their timetabled lessons on time it can affect their registration mark and lead us to contact home.


Access to toilets – there are accessible toilets open and available to students all day. Access in lesson time should however be restricted to those with a medical condition and emergency situations. Students can access toilets before school, at break, lunchtime, after school. Students can also access toilets at lesson changeover if they are unable to wait until their next break.

The small minority of students who make poor choices and disrupt the learning of others take a disproportionate amount of staff time away from other students who want to enjoy, learn and succeed in our school - we cannot allow this to continue anymore.

We have invested in additional staffing to support our students to be successful and can already see the many benefits this brings to those who are choosing to positively engage with the additional offer of support.

We will continue to work with you as families to ensure that your child has the best chances to enjoy their time with us, learn when in lessons and be successful. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Headteacher

