

## CREATING A POSITIVE ETHOS

We believe that if we are to continue to develop within children, a positive attitude towards their education, life within the school and life within the wider community, we must encourage them to participate fully in all aspects of school life and develop a sense of ownership, responsibility for the school community and their own actions and a sense of citizenship.

Examples of systems in place to promote these aims are:

- MONITORS:

Children are encouraged to take on responsibilities both within their classrooms and in the wider school community such as:

Class registers

General class organisation and tidiness

Cloakrooms

School Council

PE store

Playground equipment

Assembly preparation

Collecting family Group points

Children with these responsibilities wear a badge to promote the value of these responsibilities within the school community. A list of monitors will also be displayed in each classroom to highlight and celebrate children's roles and responsibility.

- FAMILY GROUPS:

The long established 'house' system was developed into six Family Groups comprising of children of all ages with a member of staff responsible for each group.

The purpose of having family Groups is to encourage children of all ages to meet and work together, developing a team spirit and for the older children to have greater sense of caring for the younger children.

Family Group activities include:

Weekly assemblies.

Children gaining point for their Family Group.

Weekly presentation of a Family Group cup for the Family Group with the most points.

Opportunities for the Family Groups to work together on whole-school initiatives.

Sports Day Fun activities organised in family Groups.

The staff will continue to work at further developing Family Group activities.

- SCHOOL COUNCIL:

The School Council consists of a group of children elected by each class to form a committee, which both deals with matters raised by their classes, and spearheads the children's involvement in developing a positive school ethos.

Children elected as school councillors need to demonstrate being a positive role model and actively promote all four buzz words: Respect, Effort, Listen and Co-operation both within the classroom and the wider school community.

Examples of their activities are:

Improving the school environment.

Raising money.

Organising events.

Producing a termly magazine.

Updating the school website.

Bringing children's concerns to the attention of adults.

Updating a children's version of the Codes of Conduct.

It is important that the School Council staff co-ordinator ensures that the committee has a high profile in the school by communicating information during whole school gatherings and being seen to lead whole-school initiatives.

Children who have served on the School Council are given badges to keep and are encouraged to wear these.

- SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL ASPECTS OF LEARNING (SEAL)

The SEAL programme is a whole school initiative which forms an integral part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. It aims to develop the underpinning qualities and skills that help promote positive behaviour and effective learning. It focuses on five social and emotional aspects of learning: self-awareness, managing feelings, motivation, empathy and social skills.

The SEAL curriculum helps children develop skills such as understanding another's point of view, working in a group, sticking at things when they get difficult, resolving conflict and managing worries.

Regular sessions in a SEAL nurture group will be run for children who are experiencing difficulties or are causing disruption either in the classroom or on the playground.

These will be small groups and include children who set good examples of behaviour.

- CLUBS:

We believe that a vital ingredient in creating a positive school ethos is the provision of extra curriculum activities, which not only goes towards making the school a more interesting place for children but gives them the opportunity to both extend their interests and experience success in non-academic areas.

These are some of the activities the children could experience during the course of a year:

Tennis

Hockey

Table Tennis

Netball

Dance

Football - boys and girls

ICT

Tag Rugby

Craft

Athletics

Karate

Multi-skills

Golf

Art

Library

Book Track

Individual Music lessons

Music/Drama

Recorder

- COMMUNITY LINKS:

We acknowledge that children are also members of the Combe Martin village community and that we have a responsibility to encourage a sense of belonging to this community.

We make every effort to ensure that we incorporate the local environment into their education experience and that the school is involved in village life.

Examples of this are:

Participating in village events:

Earl of Rone.

Carnival.

Peoples millions.

Raising money.

Entertaining in the village:

Strawberry Fayre.

Carol services

Inviting the local community into school:

School open days.

Older citizens for special events.

Helpers for reading.

To help with school/class topics

Celebrating achievement with local community:

Local newspaper

Head teacher's Shammickite report

School website