10th January 2025

Dear parents / carers

Welcome back!
I hope you all had a restful, enjoyable Christmas break with your families.

As we mentioned at the end of last term, we have had some new staff join the Great Linford team. Mr Shanahan has settled well into Year 6 and Mrs Sharp, our new lead administrator, has been very busy in her new role. I know some of you will have seen or spoken to Mrs Sharp already. Mrs Jago, the School Business Manager, has also begun her new role following the retirement of Mrs Mills.

Attendance:
Attendance for the year to date is **95.2%**
Well done to 3AM who had the best attendance for the last half term of 97.5%.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Bolger

Congratulations to our Aspire winners from the end of last term. The children attended their Aspire tea on Wednesday - well done everyone!

Aspire winners

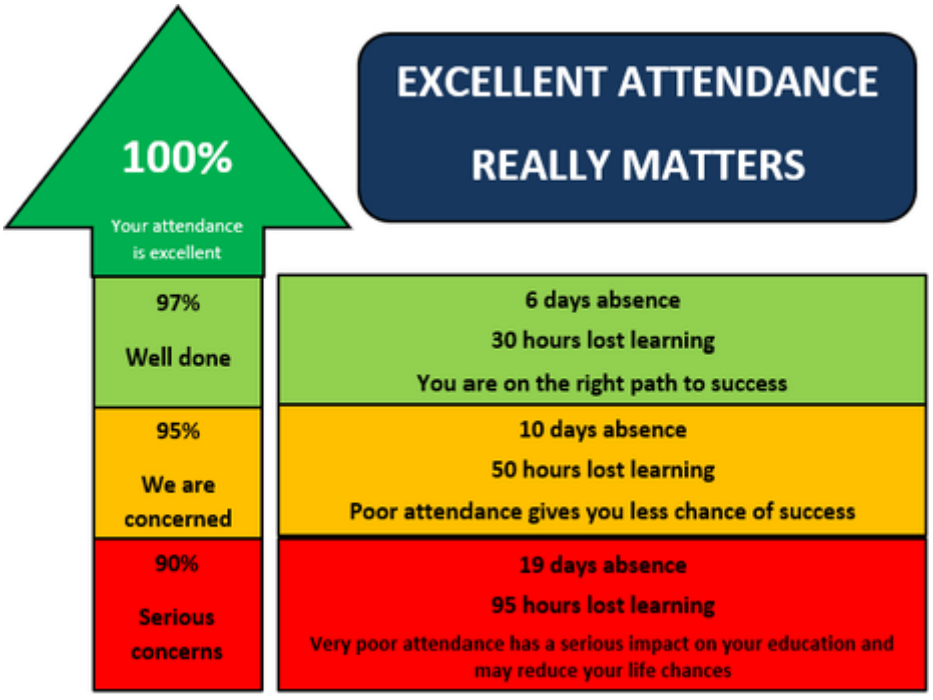
Dates for the diary

New dates in red

Mon January 13th	Y5 Milton Keynes Theatre Trip; tour, workshop and careers talk.
Tues 14th January	Y3 parents MTC workshop at 3.30pm run by Miss Scott; in 3AM classroom
Mon 20th January	VW stem week launch day in school
Tues 4th Feb	Y5 fieldwork trip to Linford Manor in the afternoon
Fri 7th Feb	Y6 fieldwork trip to Gifford Park in the morning
Thurs 13th feb	Home Learning Gallery from 2.45pm
Friday 14th February	End of term 3

Attendance

Thank you for your continued support with the attendance of your child at school. As we have mentioned before, good attendance is so important because statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school and studies show that children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically. With the focus and development on the curriculum that has taken place at school then children who are absent will find gaps in their sequential knowledge. For our younger children, both attendance and punctuality are doubly important as they move straight into their phonics groups at 8.45am after the register has been taken.



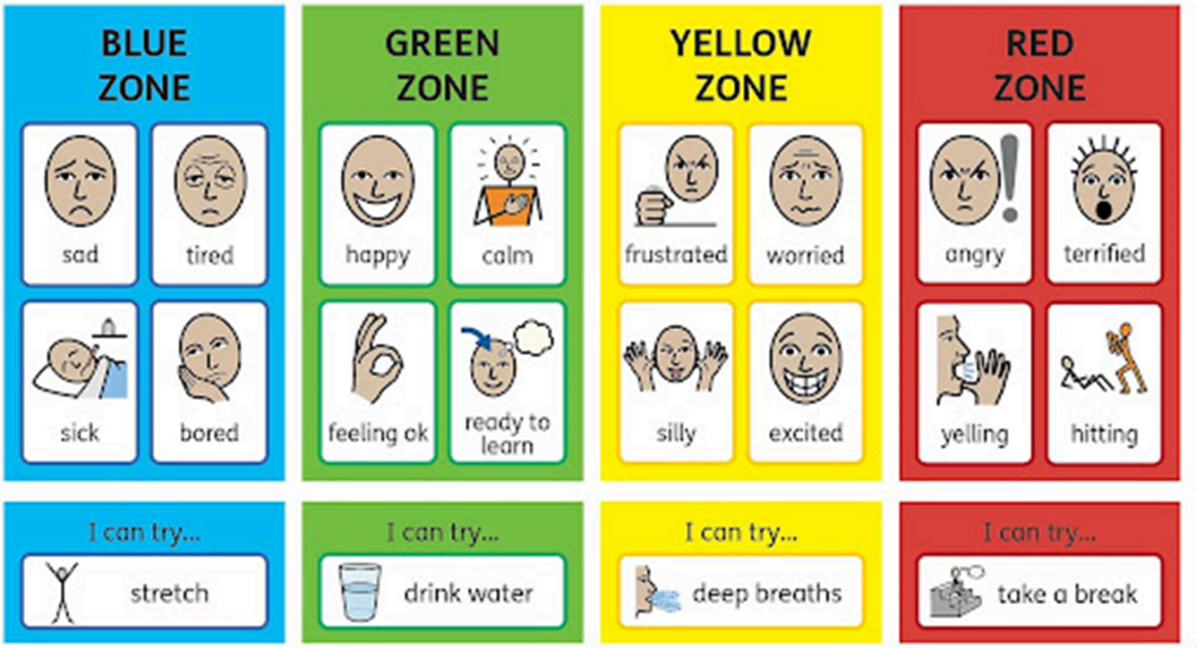
Zones of Regulation

You may have heard your child speak about 'Zones of Regulation' (or a colour to express how they are feeling) this week.
Zones of Regulation is something that we have introduced across the school this week. It is something that the children will be learning more about over the coming weeks. Hopefully, the following information will help you understand a little bit more about how it works so you can also support your child with their understanding of it.
Over time, the plan is for children to develop their own strategies to manage their emotions. Please feel free to ask myself or your child's year group team for any further clarity about it.

'Zones of Regulation' is an internationally renowned intervention which helps children to manage difficult emotions, known as 'self-regulation'. Self-regulation can go by many names such as 'emotional regulation', 'selfcontrol', 'impulse management' and 'self-management'. Self-regulation is best described as the best state of alertness for a situation, or the ability to maintain a well regulated emotional state to cope with everyday stress and to be most available for learning and interacting.
From time to time, all of us (including adults) find it hard to manage strong feelings such as worry, anger, restlessness, fear or tiredness, and this stops us from getting on with our day effectively. Children who feel these emotions often find it hard to learn and concentrate in school.
The Zones of Regulation aims to teach children strategies to help them to identify their emotions and cope with these feelings so they can get back to feeling calm and ready to learn. These coping strategies are called 'self-regulation'.

So what are the zones?
There are 4 coloured zones to categorise states of alertness and emotional states:

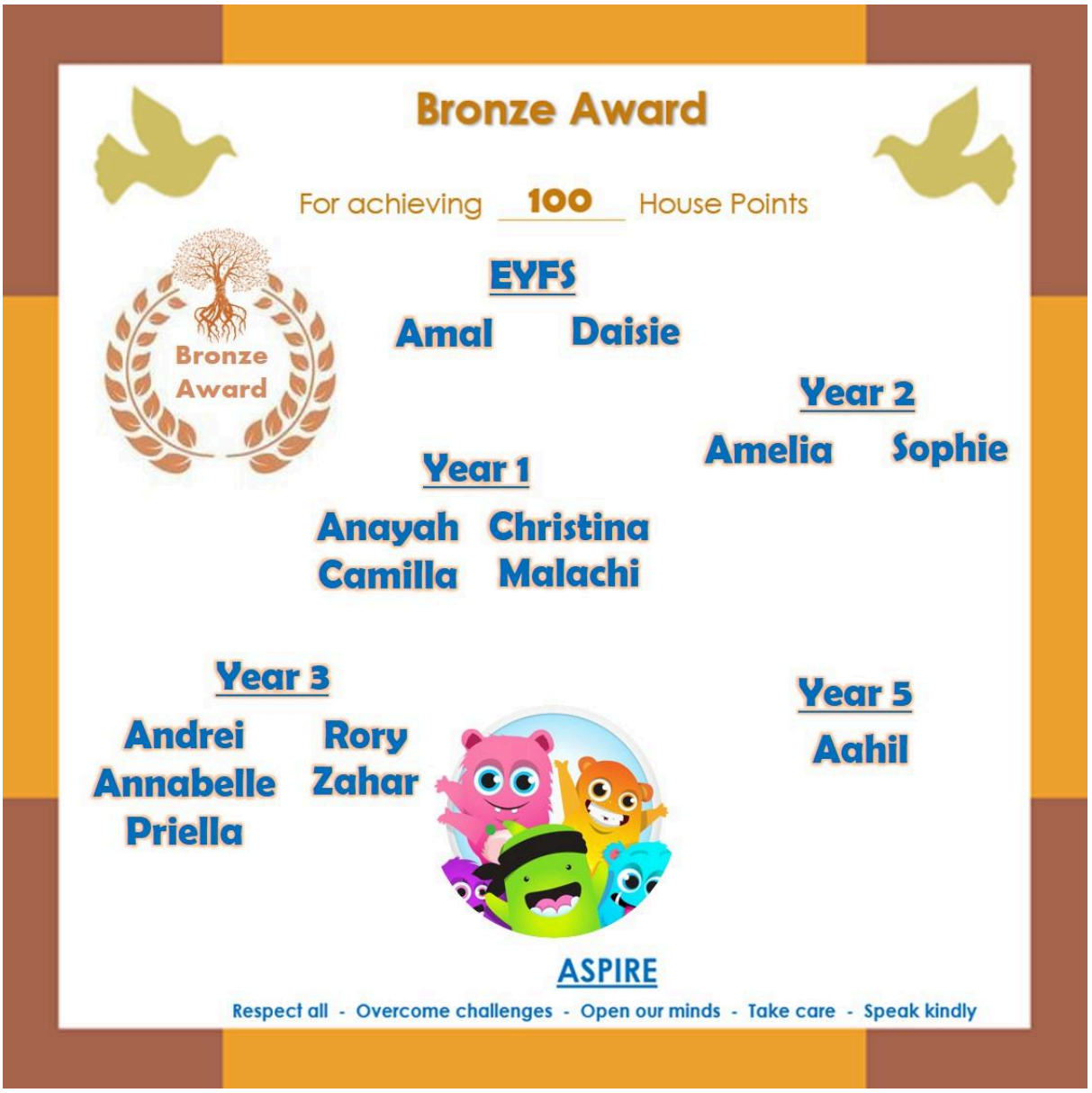
✓ The Blue Zone – used to describe low states of alertness, (such as feeling sad, tired, sick or bored. Body/brain is moving sluggishly).
✓ The Green Zone – used to describe a regulated state of alertness (such as feeling calm, happy, focussed or content). This zone is generally needed for school work, being social and ready to learn. It shows control.
✓ The Yellow Zone – used to describe a heightened state of alertness, but with some control (such as when experiencing stress, frustration, anxiety, excitement, silliness, nervousness, confusion - slightly elevated emotions (being fidgety, wiggly, squirmy or sensory seeking). The person is starting to lose control.
✓ The Red Zone – used to describe extremely heightened states of alertness or very intense feelings (such as feeling anger, rage, and explosive behaviour, panic, terror or elation). Not being in control of one's own body.



Congratulations to the following who are Miss Guy's PE superstars for this week:

Caterpillars; George- for working very hard this week.
1PK; Dennis- for brilliant changing direction in running.
1RC; Aeysha- For trying very hard to improve her speed.
2JC; Amelia- For trying really hard in the input of PE this week.
2LD; Freddie- For always challenging himself in PE.
3MH; Andrei- For trying really hard to improve his catching skills
3AM; Joey- for Challenging himself with his throwing skills.
4SS; Mia- Working really well in her group to try and challenge her peers in fitness.
4AJ; Alex- For working really hard to improve his fitness skills
5MY; Alyssia- For sharing really good ideas about tag rugby.
5GF; Jayden- For brilliant dodging during a tag rugby game
6LG; Enoch- For working really hard to stay focused and share his ideas during the input.
6AS; Kaitlin- For showing really good volleyball skills in PE.

House points



Silver Award

For achieving 200 House Points

Silver Award

EYFS

Adriel
Albie-Ian
Joni
Lara
Lincoln
Madison
Mathias
Timeea
Zara

Year 1

Prince Montell

Year 3

Aya
Davina
Florianne
Hayden
Isla
Nujaid

Year 6

Beau

Year 4

Amelie
Lorelai
Sonny-Lee
Ameer
Archie
Caitlin
Joelle
Louie
Parker
Rakshith
Salum
Tommy W

ASPIRE

Respect all - Overcome challenges - Open our minds - Take care - Speak kindly

Gold Award

For achieving 300 House Points

CONGRATULATIONS

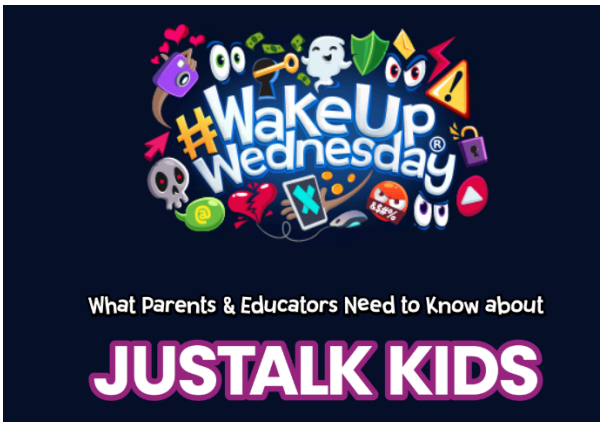
Gold Award

Amelie (Year 3)

ASPIRE

Respect all - Overcome challenges - Open our minds - Take care - Speak kindly

JusTalk Kids – billed as a child-friendly version of the JusTalk social networking platform – boasts a strong community of younger users, with approximately 20 million accounts having been created on the app 📱📈 In theory, a social media site designed specifically for children and young people should avoid many of the usual risks associated with other platforms 🛡️



In practice, however, it's important to note that JusTalk Kids has its fair share of online safety concerns ☣️ You'll find expert advice on the hazards in the app, and how you can safeguard the children in your care as they use it in this week's free guide, empowering you to make a young user's time on the platform as secure as possible.