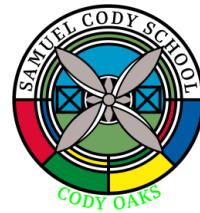


November 2022

Dear Parent/Carers,

I am writing to you to provide you with a Cody Oaks update and inform you of some of the exciting opportunities and developments that are happening in the coming weeks.



### **The Curriculum**

At Cody Oaks we are aware that the success with our students comes from the development of relationships and mutual trust, creating an environment that students feel they can be themselves, express themselves and connect with staff. Throughout the term, students have had access to the National Curriculum, however a key focus has been and remains the development of those relationships with staff. This has led us to develop an approach where students in both primary and secondary remain with their tutor throughout the day and have time to build these relationships.

Walking around the school, observing how staff and students interact, it is clear that these relationships are forming and many of our students are now engaging positively with staff throughout the day. As a result, we have now been able to expand our curriculum offer and allow students to access the specialist rooms within the school, this includes our science, food tech, music and art rooms. These are the environments and aspects of the curriculum where we will see many of our students flourish.

### **Personal Development Curriculum**

Another important part of our curriculum offer within Cody Oaks is our Personal Development Curriculum. This includes the statutory PSHE and RSE curriculum, but also provides a platform to celebrate events and bring student awareness to key issues internationally, nationally and locally. So far this term we have explored many different events including Diwali, Black History Month and, more recently, Remembrance Day. On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November, students listened to "The Last Post" before observing a minute's silence at eleven o'clock to show their respect and acknowledge the events that took place. All students engaged with this and it was a lovely moment where the school came together. Also on this day, students took part in a poppy design competition, as well as learning about the events of this day. Many of our students won prizes for their efforts.

Our current focus is based on National Anti-Bullying Week. This has created a platform for our students to reflect and develop awareness about what bullying is and the impact this and unkindness can have on people. It has also provided an opportunity for many of our students to develop their emotional vocabulary, which is a key aspect to their own emotional regulation and literacy.

### **Zones of Regulation**

We continue to use Zones of Regulation as our tool within lessons to allow students to begin to explore their emotional state, identify how they are feeling and make good choices, even when things become difficult. We would encourage parents and carers to build this into the home to allow students to achieve a level of consistency across settings and give them the best opportunity to develop their self-regulation skill set. Further information on this can be accessed online, however we would be very happy to have a conversation with you about this and provide support for home. Please speak to the class tutor if this is something that you would like to explore.

### **Attendance**

One of the things I am most proud of within Cody Oaks so far is the outstanding attendance of our students. We have some students who remain at 100% attendance and a number of students who are in excess of 90%. This is fantastic and will have a huge impact upon the relationships they are building and the opportunities they will be able to access. We have celebrated this achievement with students and given them certificates. We are also aware that many of our students have shown a significant improvement in attendance in comparison to their previous setting and this has also been recognised and celebrated with those students. We recognise that for many of our students maintaining high attendance has required the use of resilience and regulation skills and this is part of what makes us so proud. We also recognise that parents and carers have played a huge part in supporting our students to come to school each day and we would like to thank you for this.

## **Rewards**

Our reward scheme is now up and running, and includes our Arrive, Attempt, Achieve system, which gives us the opportunity to celebrate the positive choices students make throughout the day. Every point the child achieves reflects a financial value which they can build up and go and spend in our Cody Oaks shop. In addition to this, we also have raffle ticket system which allows us to give students an opportunity to win a prize each Friday afternoon. These are providing the motivation our students require to engage with positive choices so please do ask your children about these when they get home.

Our Reward systems relates to the Cody Oaks **PACK**:

**Property** = we respect the building and use it safely, we respect our own and each other's property,

**Arrive, Attempt, Achieve** = Arrive on time, give things a go, celebrate achievement

**Communication** = communicate our needs, communicate effectively and politely

**Kindness** = Kind to others and ourselves

## **Trips**

We are now beginning to introduce trips to our curriculum for students who are able to self and co-regulate in school. This includes classes from both our Primary and Secondary heading out to Runway's End in December. Here they will take part in both climbing and archery, providing an opportunity to celebrate the behaviour and choices they have been making with us at Cody Oaks. The activities on these trips will challenge our students to step outside of their comfort zone, with key and familiar staff alongside them to co-regulate and support students with their emotional regulation throughout. We hope students thoroughly enjoy their time and we can begin to get more students out as soon as possible.

## **Enrichment**

In the Spring Term we will begin to introduce our enrichment curriculum to both Wednesday and Friday afternoons. This will allow students to explore activities that interest them and learn a range of new skills. Students will rotate around activities such as bike riding, gardening, circuit training/fitness, baking and many other things. We acknowledge that these are the opportunities where our students can be at their best and we believe that they are now ready to begin to explore these activities in a safe manner, allowing the students to make positive choices and continue to develop their relationships with staff.

We now begin the build up to Christmas and will have many activities built into the curriculum which will allow students to begin to get excited, this will include a Christmas dinner on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

I would like finally to take the opportunity to thank you for all of your support so far this term. We have had to make some difficult decisions due to COVID 19 and staffing within the school, but as parents and carers you have continued to show remarkable support and patience. Every decision is made to maintain the well-being, safety and support of all the children we are fortunate enough to work with each day.

### **Important Dates**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November** – INSET day to facilitate staff training. The school will be closed to all students.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas dinner. Our canteen will be putting together Christmas lunch for our students, please log in and pay the usual way for school dinners if you would like your child to access this. This will be included for those entitled to Free School Meals.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – End of Term. Students will finish at 12:00. Transport have been informed.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** – First day of Term. Students will return at 11:00. Staff will contact you between 8.45 and 11 am on this day to see how their break has been in preparation to welcome students back to school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr G. Colyer

Lead of Cody Oaks SEMH Unit

Samuel Cody School