



## ***Samuel Cody School***

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Headteacher: Mrs S Chinnappa BSc M.Ed. NPQH

6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with a few weeks to go until our first half term break.

The first half term has been a busy one, with new primary pupils and YR 7's settling into the routine and expectations of Samuel Cody.

Since the return to school, we are seeing the normal disagreements and relational issues that we as a school for children with special educational needs do expect to see on an everyday basis. Name calling, physical and emotional outbursts towards other students does happen in a school such as ours, often because many of our children are unable to form friendships easily and they are all trying to find their place within the Samuel Cody family.

We take unkindness to others very seriously, and whilst we do all that we can to guide and mentor our students, they do need regular reminders to be kind and not pick on other children. You will know as parents and carers how difficult this can be at times, and often we have to revisit this topic over and over again to help our students learn new ways of behaving.

Our students will often tell us that they are being bullied by others. We take this very seriously if this is the case, but incidents of name calling, or one-off remarks or unkind comments during break time, or during games such as football are not incidents of bullying. These things will be dealt with and taken seriously, but we all have to take care with the words that we use to describe what is happening. To reiterate, bullying can be defined as deliberate and hurtful behaviour that is repeated over a period of time. The school works hard to ensure that all students understand the difference between being bullied and just 'falling out'. Students have had an assembly delivered by me this week around this issue. I would ask that you talk to your children this weekend and reiterate my message of kindness to all. If you need more information about how the school handles bullying and behaviour in general, please look at the school website where all of our policies are available for you to read. We would urge any student who feels that they being picked on in any form to tell a member of staff immediately so that it can be dealt with. If we do not know that it is happening, it is harder for us to deal with it promptly.

We have also had some instances of students bringing banned items into school. You will understand why students must not bring into school anything that can harm themselves or another person. I am not going to list what these things are here, as they are in our behaviour policy which is available on our website, but you will know as adults what those things are. This was also mentioned in assembly this week so there is no reason why students should not know what can or not, be bought into school. If you are concerned that your child may be bringing items into school that could be a danger to themselves or others, please check their bags and call the school office. Bringing banned items into school can

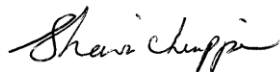
carry severe consequences, and in this day and age where inappropriate items are available to buy online, I would ask you to be vigilant. I thank you all in your support of this issue.

We have had some safety issues arising out of the primary car park during drop off and collection times, and I have now instructed primary staff to park in the outer parking bays only in the car park and not in the middle or in the mini bus bays. This leaves the middle bays open for primary parents to park to drop off and collect their children. Please do not park in the mini bus bays to the left. Hopefully primary parents have noticed an improvement in this over the past few days.

Those of you who have been parents here at Samuel Cody for a number of years now will know that these topics come and go throughout the year. I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support with all of these issues.

Halt term is nearly upon us. I hope that you all have a good week when it comes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Shan Chinnappa', written in black ink.

Mrs S Chinnappa  
Headteacher  
Samuel Cody School