



Culham, December 2015

Chers Parents, dear Parents, liebe Eltern, queridos Padres,

Firstly, once again, I wanted to felicitate and thanks so much the parents who organised this exceptional Christmas fair, as well as the St Martin procession in November. Everyone was very impressed, it is such nice moments which make our school being what it is.

I wanted to talk a bit today about an area which could affect everyone in the school, children, staff and parents. **Behaviour.** We used to manage it overall quite well so far, with a balanced approach: open-mindedness and firmness, included a quick reaction in any suspicion of bullying. At different times, we worked to improve it when we felt it was necessary. Nonetheless, Europa School UK is now a big primary school, with 13 classes. One year more, and our primary setting will be achieved with the opening of our 6DE and 6FE classes, and a Spanish stream extending progressively.

Because of this we wanted to develop a new and global view on this matter, and to promote a **whole school approach**. We have associated to this task a short team of parents of the PTA who kindly proposed their help, included Catherine Sykes, parent and psychologist. A staff meeting was held to work on prevention. At the meeting we discussed the early warning signs of bullying and identified that we may be starting to see some behaviour that could go on to become more bully-like in future. It was noted that at Europa, children use to respect differences on the whole. However there are some differences that could potentially be the source of concern in the future (e.g. different catchment areas, different language streams, merging of schools, etc.)

We have set up a *Whole-School Approach to Relationships Action Group*, gathering Teachers, TAs and parents. This group meets regularly and focus on enhancing children's sense of connection to the school, their strengths and self-esteem, and giving children techniques to help them manage their emotions. A great topic we want to deepen is politeness. We are as well focusing at the moment on the playtimes, where children are responsible to build their own peers relationships, within a lively social context. One proposition which could allow involving all the families of the school is to gather a lot of different games to play outdoors. A communication from the PTA will be sent out in the following days about this project.

We have also taken in board a tradition of ESC: the **buddies**. Some children volunteers from both schools become buddies, and are in charge on a rota basis to take care of children who could feel lonely in the playground. They try as well to resolve some potential conflicts before they become serious. I have seen them in action last week in the playground. It was a true pleasure to see these children so keen to help, so involved and happy to give a positive input to the school community.

Another point I wanted to talk about, very quickly this time but which will be developed in another letter, is "teaching without levels". The British National Curriculum levels (as example 2c, 2b, 2a, 3c, etc.), don't exist anymore; they have been cancelled. The schools, included ours, work on new grades and indicators. We will give you very soon comprehensive information on this new system.

Kind regards, bien cordialement, mit freundlichen Grüßen, saludos cordials.

Pascal Maréchau
Head of Primary
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