

Wendover Church of England Junior School

Wharf Road, Wendover, Buckinghamshire HP22 6HF

Headteacher: Gareth Kynaston

Tel: 01296 696822



Assistant Headteachers: Jennifer Bartlett
Joanna Cook

Email: admin@wendoverjunior.co.uk
Website: <http://wendover.eschools.co.uk>

19 March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 4 children

Please can you help me with something?

Would your child like to be involved in a project that changes how we teach and learn?

I am currently studying for the National Award for SEN Co-ordination and plan to carry out a small research project in Year 4. The aim of the project will be to help all children work more independently and resiliently, making greater use of the classroom's 'working walls'. Our working walls are useful, but could be used more intensively by all children. We would like their advice on what to change for the better.

Who is involved?

This request letter has been sent to the families of all children in Year 4. I will work with a group of about five children from across the four Year 4 classes. Depending on responses, I will choose a range of children, of both genders, of a range of abilities and from different classes.

How long for?

The project will last about six weeks.

What will my child be doing?

They will be asked to say how useful they find the current working walls. They will be asked to suggest an additional feature that they would find useful. We will then choose one of the suggested features and implement it across the year group for six weeks. The children will then be asked whether they found the feature useful and if it improved their learning in class. Commitment from the children will be:

- A learning walk one afternoon with a small group of children and myself to identify things they like and do not like about working walls;
- Shortly afterwards, a conversation with the group of children, myself and another adult about which of their suggestions we will choose;
- Six weeks or so later, a second learning walk one afternoon with me and the same group to look at the working walls and identify any changes.

What if they don't enjoy it?

Children will be able to withdraw themselves at any time, or you may withdraw them at any time for any reason.

Why is it a good thing?

The children will be able to help design improvements to our working walls. We know that thinking about **how** we learn helps us to learn. Your child will be able to think about what they need to learn more effectively.

Respect

Reflection

Responsibility

Resilience

All information about the children will be kept confidential and no photographs of them will be used in the final report. Children's names will be changed to protect them (as indeed will the name of the school and county). Teachers and learning support assistants will also be anonymised.

Children will also be asked for their permission, but only once you have given your consent. I will let you know if your child will be taking part.

Should you have any concerns during the project, please contact me on 01296 696822 or at admin@wendoverjunior.co.uk.

If you are happy for your child to be part of this exciting project, please return the form below by Monday 25 March.

Yours sincerely

JENNIFER BARTLETT
Assistant Headteacher
SENCO/DSL

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NATIONAL AWARD FOR SEN CO-ORDINATION (University of Hertfordshire)
ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT: WORKING WALLS IN YEAR 4

Child's name Class

I consent to my child taking part in the above study by Mrs Jennifer Bartlett and confirm I have read the attached letter and "small print" below.

Signed Date

Relationship to child

The Small Print:

1. I confirm that I have been given particulars of this small scale study, including its aim(s), methods and design, the names and contact details of key people. I understand that the study will involve only procedures undertaken by teachers from time to time as part of their professional development and is thus a benefit which has minimal risk associated with it. I have been given details of my child's involvement in the study. I have been told that in the event of any significant change to the aim(s) or design of the study I will be informed, and asked to renew my consent for him/her to participate in it.
2. I have been assured that he/she may withdraw from the study, and that I may withdraw my permission for him/her to continue to be involved in the study, at any time without disadvantage to him/her or to myself, or having to give a reason.
3. I have been told that baseline data already available in school may be used within this study. I have been told how information relating to him/her (data obtained in the course of the study, and data provided by me, or by him/her, about him/herself) will be handled: how it will be kept secure, who will have access to it, and how it will or may be used.
4. I understand that if the study reveals that he/she has any further educational or learning needs, the school will be kept informed of these. I declare that I am an appropriate person to give consent on his/her behalf, and that I am aware of my responsibility for protecting his/her interests.