

Whitegate End Primary School and Nursery
Butterworth Lane
Chadderton
OL98EB
[Tel:01617705460](tel:01617705460)
Email: info@whitegateend.oldham.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs J. Conway



17th March 2021

Dear Parents of Year 6 pupils,

I wanted to write to you to explain the school's perspective on the current situation regarding end of year Leavers hoodies.

As in previous years, the schools position has always been that Leavers Hoodies are distributed towards the end of the summer term when pupils are close to leaving. This year it has been brought to our attention that the hoodies have been ordered a lot earlier than normal. We have asked that the organiser of the Leavers Hoodies wait to distribute the hoodies until the usual time. We understand that this has caused some upset and would like to explain the reasons for this.

The timing of the Leavers Hoodies has significance as we find every year that once a child has a Leavers Hoodie their mentality and behaviour shifts from no longer being a Whitegate End pupil. In their mind they will have left and this has a massive impact upon learning, behaviour, anxieties and with pupils often fracturing relationships with pupils and staff.

Many pupils are already anxious about moving to High School and to introduce a Leavers Hoodie so early will only add to that.

We appreciate that this year has not been ideal for any child or parents. I also understand from a parent's view that if you have paid for something you feel you should have your purchase. I am unsure as to why Leavers Hoodies have been ordered so early. It is a long time until pupils leave on the 21st July. We know from previous experiences that despite school requesting that Hoodies are not worn before a set date that pupils will find ways of wearing them. This can lead to further upset when asked by school to wait until the agreed time.

Our main focus now is to integrate the pupils back into school quickly, to re-establish relationships and expectations in school and to address any gaps in education in order that pupils are prepared academically and emotionally for High School.

Despite not having formal SATS this year, Teaching staff still have a monumental task to teach all of the missed educational gaps, provide assessments for High Schools and create end of year memorable moments for pupils to remember in years to come. We really need a positive mindset from all of the pupils to ensure this aim is achieved for each of your children.

Since pupils have returned from lockdown, many pupils are struggling with anxieties, the breakdown of relationships and the renewed expectations of Year 6. On a daily basis the Year 6 Teaching team are meeting to discuss and review where the children are at and what strategies are needed to help them reconnect to each other and their learning. This is no easy task, and staff feel that this would be even harder should children develop the Mindset that they are leaving.

In line with our Year 6 Leavers policy the clear principles are that parents work with the leadership of the school in a collaborative way to ensure the needs of all pupils are met.

I hope that what I have shared with you will shed some light on our reasons why this year and in all other years we refrain from pupils having Leavers Hoodies until nearer the time when they are leaving.

Thank you for your continued cooperation during these difficult and uncertain times.

Mrs J Conway

'To be the best that we can be'