



# Fosse News

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I have never yet met a parent who didn't want their child to do well at school, be happy and get a good job. If we want pupils at Fosse to have the best chance of succeeding in later life, then I need to hold difficult conversations and to challenge everyone to provide better support and guidance for the children we care for. I have no wish to offend but feel that I need to make the following observations; some of the following may not apply to you and I am, of course, happy to discuss anything with individual parents.

## Get Reading

We know it is often difficult to find time to sit down and read with children. We all lead busy lives and there's always something to do but, if you don't already, please try to find some extra time to listen to your child reading. Or, for younger children, make sure you are reading to them. We have conducted reading surveys which show how much children value spending time reading with you and also show that this happens less often than the Leicester city average. Time spent supporting children with these early skills is the best thing you can do to help them succeed in later life. More information will be coming to you soon about the summer reading challenge.

## Turn off the TV

We've noticed from home visits that, in the majority of homes visited, the television is always on. Across the country, pupils come to school with much poorer speech and language skills than used to be the case because children do not have enough time with adults, sharing activities and talking about what they are doing. All children need lots of positive adult attention; turning the TV off more often (and having times with mobile phones turned off) brings families together which can only be a good thing. Children also often tell us that they watch 18 certificate films and play 18 certificate games. I would ask all parents to think carefully about what you allow your children to see; we all have different values but I feel confident in saying that primary age children are not developmentally ready to deal with 18 certificate subject matter.

## Discipline and behaviour

Please do not tell your child to hit back if someone has hurt them as all this does is cause more problems and is against the rules in all schools. Children should definitely be taught to stand up for themselves but this must be done in the right way. At Fosse we help children to talk through problems or arguments so that they can learn how their actions affect other people. Also, in the vast majority of situations there are issues on both sides.

My main advice is to stay calm and patient – this provides children with a positive view of how to solve problems. It is clearly very difficult when children challenge us but being consistent and fair and taking time to listen makes things much easier in the long run. I know this from experience!

## What we can do better

Schools cannot work in isolation – we need to work even more closely with parents. We know that families like how we welcome them into the school but we need to do much more. One of the main parts of our school improvement plan next year will focus on making sure we provide you with more help so that you know what you can do to support your children. If we ask more from you, we will do our best to make sure you know what we hope to see.

I hope you will take the advice above in the spirit in which it is intended – I'm thinking, as always, about the children we all care for and how we can work together to improve their time at Fosse and provide a really solid start for future success.

Best Wishes  
Richard Stone  
Headteacher