

**Joseph Norton Academy**  
Busker Lane, Scissett  
Huddersfield  
HD8 9JU

6<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear parents and carers,

### **Mental Health issues in Schools Award**

We are delighted to share with you that Joseph Norton Academy has been chosen to work towards being accredited with the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health issues in Schools Award.

Carnegie School of Education based at Leeds Beckett University and Minds Ahead CIC has developed the School Mental Health Award to give schools and academies a framework for whole school mental health development. By embracing the ideals of the award, we are demonstrating a deep commitment to working towards excellent practice as we place the mental health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff at the core of our academy alongside our commitment to having a rich whole school culture where all members of our academy community can thrive.

We would welcome expressions of interest from parents/carers who would like and are able to work with us more closely through a parent/carer group which will focus on the competencies of the award. If you would like further information about joining the group, please contact Lee Wardle or Kate Gaunt.

We look forward to sharing how we, as a community, are further developing our practices in relation to mental health and wellbeing over the coming months. Further information about the award can be found on the Leeds Beckett University website: <http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/schoolmh>.

### **Adverse Weather**

As the temperature starts to drop we would like to remind you how we deal with any severe weather, especially snow, which may affect the school.

Each day of any severe weather, we will make an assessment about whether it is safe and practical to open the school to pupils. This decision will be made early in the morning, in enough time to inform you if we are to close. You will be informed by text if the school is closed to your child each day. If you do not hear anything from us, the school will be open.

Should you wish to check reports of closure, you can do so by visiting the council website [www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolclosures) where you will find up-to-date information. We will also put a notice on our own website at [www.josephnorton.co.uk](http://www.josephnorton.co.uk) and on our Twitter account, which is @JosephNorton001. Closure information will also be shared with the local radio and TV stations for them to use as they wish in their bulletins.

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Telephone: 01484 868218 - Fax: 01484 868966 – Email: [office@josephnorton.co.uk](mailto:office@josephnorton.co.uk)

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Please be assured that we will only decide to close the school or parts of our school in exceptional circumstances and where the safety of your child is the primary concern. On occasions this may be due to the availability of teaching staff who travel some distance to reach school, rather than purely on the conditions for pupils accessing the site.

If conditions deteriorate during the school day or bad weather is forecast when pupils would be going home, we may have to close the school early. The actual timing will depend on weather reports and the information we receive from school transport. Please note that absence can only be authorised when either the school is closed or school transport inform us they have been unable to collect a child.

When bad weather is forecast, please ensure that your children come to school suitably prepared with robust outdoor clothing and appropriate footwear. We would also be grateful if you could provide us with up-to-date emergency contact numbers so we can get in touch if necessary. If you would like to talk to us about a specific adverse weather plan for your child, please get in touch.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school. If you would like to receive information and school updates via our text messaging service and have not already given us your mobile phone number, please contact the school office to provide your details. If you do not have a mobile number, please contact us so we can discuss alternative arrangements with you.

**Vice-Chair of Governors**

We are very pleased to introduce Anne Ivey, who is our new vice-chair of governors. Some of you will already have spoken to her at our recent Engaging Families event. After obtaining a First Class Honours degree in Mathematics and Computational Science at Leeds University, Anne has followed a career in IT mainly in Software Development. Her initial career saw roles in several local companies with a short spell as a contractor for ICL in Manchester and The AA in Newcastle.

Anne took several years off to start raising her three children and resumed her career at Leeds Building Society 24 years ago. Since then she had held many IT related roles including Head of Software Delivery (a role she held for 15 years), as well as a short spell working as Head of Property Services. Anne still works at Leeds Building Society where she now focuses on promoting personal development for her IT colleagues.

Anne was a parent governor when her children were young and has been a member of Joseph Norton's Governing Body for a year. She is the Finance and Property link governor, bringing a wealth of both business and finance expertise to the school.

If you would like any more information about our governing body, please get in touch.

**Dates for your Diary**

Important dates for this half term include the following:

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Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Light Up the Woods (Clayton West)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Children in Need (pay £1 to wear something beginning with J, N or A).

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – School Photographs

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Coffee Morning for parents and carers

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Christmas Dinners (each class will be preparing a Christmas dinner for the whole school – with a different take).

Please contact the school for further information about any of the above.

Please note that school will close at 13:00 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December and reopen on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Please remember that all of this information and copies of this letter will be shared on our website in the Parent Carer Zone [www.josephnorton.co.uk](http://www.josephnorton.co.uk). You can also follow us on Twitter under the handle @JosephNorton001

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Wilson  
Head Teacher