22nd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to tell you about the launch of a mental health and wellbeing project for our school community.

**What is Mental Wellbeing?**

It is how we are feeling and coping with the things we face in everyday life. Just like physical health, sometimes it is good and sometimes not so good. You could think of it as your mental fitness.

I am sure you will agree that there has never been a more important time to speak openly about mental health and wellbeing with children and young people and to encourage them to talk about their feelings with family, friends, and trusted adults.

Research tells us that building the following proven five simple ways into our everyday lives can make a really positive difference to the mental health and wellbeing of both children and adults alike and help to build resilience and confidence.

1. **Talk and listen – CONNECT**
2. **Be ACTIVE**
3. **Remember to TAKE NOTICE**
4. **Keep LEARNING Every Day**
5. **Acts of Kindness – GIVE to others**

As part of our commitment to the wellbeing of our children, staff, and wider school community, I am proud to advise you that we will be launching the 5 ways to wellbeing project in our school with effect from Friday 26th March.

We will be sharing information with the children about the 5 ways to wellbeing through assembly and then exploring how we can put them into practice every day both in school and at home. The focus of the project will be to highlight to the children how the 5 ways to wellbeing can easily form part of their daily lives and link to their everyday experiences and to know that by doing these 5 things every day, they are taking good care of their mental health.

You may already have heard of the 5 ways to wellbeing as this freely available NHS guidance has become more widely used since the start of the pandemic. One of our key aims as soon as the COVID restrictions allow will be to provide an opportunity for our parents and carers to find out more about the project and to become more involved. In the meantime, the 5 ways to wellbeing guidance is available for parents on the NHS website at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk). You can also find further information about how to apply the guidance at home at [www.youngminds.org.uk/amillionandme](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/amillionandme).

We are feeling incredibly positive about promoting the 5 ways to wellbeing guidance in our school community and we welcome the opportunity to encourage our children and staff to reflect on the 5 ways each day in school and the positive steps they can take to look after their own mental health.

We will keep you informed about the project over the coming weeks through the BITES, Facebook and our website and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at all.

To kick start the project, each child will bring home a ‘5 Ways to Wellbeing Journal’ to complete for one week over the Easter holidays. It would be lovely to share these together in school at the beginning of the summer term so please send them back in to school.

Yours sincerely

D. Clarke

Debbie Clarke Head Teacher