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Building a Culture of Kindness and Respect at School and Home

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our school year has started with a focus on two core values that shape our community everyday: **respect** and **kindness**.

In our classrooms and on the playground, we are talking to the children about what these values look like in action. We define **respect** as treating others the way we want to be treated and valuing everyone's differences. We see **kindness** as the small everyday choices we make to lift each other up.

As part of this focus we are also teaching the children about the importance of celebrating diversity and challenging prejudice-based behaviour. We want every child to feel safe, valued and proud of who they are, regardless of their background, race, religion, gender or abilities. In an age appropriate way, we are learning that unkind words or actions directed at someone's identity or differences are hurtful and have no place in our school community.

We love partnering with you to reinforce these values. Below are a few simple ways you can talk about respect and kindness with your child this week:

- **Spot the good:** Notice out loud when your child shares, uses polite manners, or shows empathy.
- **Celebrate differences:** Talk about what makes everyone unique and special, this could be reading books or watching stories together.

- **Encourage upstanding:** Talk to your child about what to do if they see someone being excluded or treated unfairly because of who they are, encouraging them to tell a trusted adult.
- **Model respectful listening:** Show your child what respect looks like by giving them your full attention when they speak, and talking about how we can disagree with others while still being polite.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a safe, welcoming, and inclusive place for every child.

Best wishes,

Sally Short and Hayley Yendell

Headteachers of Hobletts Manor Schools