

October 26th 2017
D1400CP

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all the wonderful positive support and the reinforcement from you all. This really helps us establish good ground rules for classes, in order to maintain a safe, supportive, environment where the best learning can take place.

Since the beginning of this term Charlie & I have been talking about this class, the dynamics, personalities & behaviour in this class and we have been monitoring it. As you all know the week before week 8 was not such great class, but I was in the following week to observe and we are very pleased to say that after Charlie's, talk to the children in this class and with the support and positive reinforcement of the basic rules - there was a huge improvement among the majority of the class. Many individuals were really trying hard - so this was great.

This class, have a familiarity with each other as they are from the same school and some the same class - similar to the relationship that siblings have. This doesn't always make for the best dynamics as they are almost too familiar with each other, and this can pose additional challenges because of this. We are working hard with this group to re enforce respect for each other and to be a little more careful with each other, because they are confident and happy within this group and this can lead to over excitement because they know each other so well.

Drama is all about working together – team- work, communication, confidence building, empathy & understanding - Life skills - so this is the perfect class to deal with these challenges! ☺ We are encouraging self expression and creativity in these Creative Drama classes, but there also needs to be boundaries to work within and this is what we are working on in all classes, but this is particularly relevant for this class. It's important for the children in these classes to learn to work with each other respectfully and not just not opt out of class and take the easy route by avoiding dealing with it, just because there are some challenges to face. Together we can work in finding positive solutions

The challenges this particular class are facing with each other and what we teach in class, the behaviour we encourage in our classes are life skills and these are also basic ground rules for good drama as well as life.

Fundamental Ground Rules in Drama - We encourage:

- Listening to each other & respecting each other
- Respect personal/physical boundaries
- Learning to acknowledge when something has gone wrong
- Learning to say sorry
- Learning to deal with frustrations, positively not through physical actions - communicating
- Understanding and empathising of others - stepping in to someone else shoes
- Team work - leading and following
- Support of each other - so all can dare to give and to help each other - in turn helps all build confidence

I will continue to pop in to class over the rest of the term and together with Charlie we will monitor the class. Together with constant support from you the parents, reinforcing good manners and respect at all times, really helps the children become more self aware and able to deal with this - encourage conversation with your child. A real improvement was seen from one week to the next and together we feel sure we will crack this! ☺

Again - Thank you for your support on this matter – we look forward to seeing the improvements.

Best wishes,

Alison
Director – Centre Stage School of The Arts