



Newsletter

9TH SEPTEMBER 2024

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

Dear Families,

We are so happy to have welcomed the children back into school today on what has been a wonderful start to the term. I hope you have all managed to have a restful summer break with lots of family time. As you already know, there has been a lot of work going on over the summer - we have a beautiful new EYFS unit, new boilers, new windows on KS1 and a new office area is being created as we speak! School is looking lovely and staff have worked so hard to ensure that the building was ready for children returning.

Classrooms have been re-ordered so Year 5 and Year 6 children will now be dismissed through the main doors. Year 3 and Year 4 children will be dismissed at the Key Stage 2 doors. Key Stage One will remain the same, other than Reception, who will enter through the nursery playground. In the same way as last year, teachers (other than Reception) will not be on the doors in the mornings, as they will be greeting children into their classrooms. Members of the Senior Leadership Team and Miss Mark, our Family Liaison Worker, will be available to welcome children and take any messages. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher, they will be outside at the end of the day.

Uniform

Our children were looking incredibly smart today, so a huge thank you!



Just a quick reminder of expectations:



- Forest green jumper or cardigan
- White polo t shirt or shirt
- Black, smart trousers, skirt or pinafore
- Black school shoes or completely black trainers
- Natural hair
- No jewellery other than stud earrings and a watch (not smart)



ALSO, A REMINDER THAT NO MOBILE PHONES ARE ALLOWED ON THE SCHOOL SITE.

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter, an attendance update can be found below,
Mrs Wilkes

PARENT OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

Please come and join us for our open evening this week. It is the first Parent's Evening of the year where **important information will be shared about your child's year ahead**. Teachers will share what will be taught, expectations of homework and exciting events and you will be able to have a look inside your child's classroom and find out how they are settling in.



In the hall, Miss Farrow, Miss Mark and I will be giving information about SEND, Safeguarding and Early Help, so please pop in to see us as well. There will also be refreshments available, so you can enjoy these while you wait for your slot.

TIMINGS ARE BELOW:

3:15 - 3:35pm - Year 3 and Year 4

3:45 - 4:05pm - Year 1 and Year 2

4:10 - 4:30pm - Year 5 and Year 6

There will be a separate open afternoon for EYFS, once the children have settled in.

Come into school through the main doors and we will show you where to go. Join us for coffee while you wait.



Attendance



UPDATE

Please also look out on Parent Hub for a letter from Derbyshire County Council.

As you have probably seen in the media, there have been some government-level changes to school attendance which require us to make some slight changes to our policy. We were really proud of the way families worked with us last year to improve our attendance across school. Families engaged with meetings and welcomed support to enable children to be in school and learning every day, which we know is so important for their development, both socially and academically.

I am no longer able to authorise any holidays with the new guidance in place and I must notify the local authority if holidays are taken (with or without written requests). However, in very exceptional circumstances, absences may be granted. Please continue to talk to us and complete absence request forms.

Our school attendance policy largely remains the same as last year:

- You will be notified by Parent Hub and letter once your child has hit certain numbers of days absence and contacted by Miss Mark to identify any support we can offer
- Meetings will be held at day 10 and day 13 in order to review the support offered
- Monitoring periods will be issued for children whose attendance is a concern and school will begin to work closely with the local authority.

Changes to the way that penalty notices can be issued, for holidays or unauthorised absence, are detailed in the information from Derbyshire County Council, below:

School attendance update September 2024

Attendance categories

95 to 100% - as expected

91 to 94% - at risk of persistent absence

80 to 90% - persistent absence

51 to 79% - at risk of severe absence

Less than or equal to 50% - severe absence

Support first approach

Missing school means children fall behind. This not only impacts on their future achievement, but also adds additional stress and worry as the pupil attempts to catch up. This can affect their mental health and that of their family.

Schools will always try to offer support to remove barriers to attendance before considering any form of legal intervention however they can only do this with the support of parents. If you do not engage with this support the school may feel that they have no choice than to request the Local Authority consider taking legal action against you for failure to secure your child's regular attendance at school under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the below changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines for unauthorised absence after 19th August 2024.

Education Penalty Notices are issued to the parents of statutory school age children and can be issued to each parent or carer who is deemed liable for the child's absence from school.

• First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

• Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

• Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Can my child take a holiday in term time?

The simple answer is NO - pupils can only take leave of absence during term time if this is approved in advance by the school. Leave taken without permission may result in a penalty notice and or prosecution.