

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

ATTENDANCE:

Last year the school attendance rate was 96.0%.

All parents were given information about their child's attendance with their school report. If your child's attendance certificate was orange or red this means that over the course of the year their attendance was lower than it needs to be if they are to make good progress. In the case of a Red Certificate, the child's attendance rate was seriously below an acceptable level and must be improved this year.

96% is the target attendance rate for every child in the school. To put this in context, a child who has **8 days of absence over the course of the whole year** will achieve a 96% attendance. Many children had attendance rates of close to, or indeed at, 100% last year so very good attendance is achievable.

Slight coughs, sore throats or colds are not a reason for a child to be absent from school. Another way to help their attendance is to avoid the "one more day off to get properly better".

If we feel that your child is not fit enough to be at school we will always contact you, but in most cases a child who is a bit under the weather when they arrive pick up during the morning and is able to complete the day. If you are in doubt about whether your child is fit e.g. they are complaining of a headache, tummy ache etc., please bring them to school and we will let you know during the day if you need to come and get them. Sometimes you may need to be firm with your child and insist that they come to school if they are "a bit under the weather". We can administer Calpol etc. to help relieve some of the minor symptoms of colds etc. if you authorise us to do so.

We do understand that sometimes a child cannot be at school e.g. if they have a sickness bug or an illness such as chickenpox, and that these can reduce a child's attendance. What both you as a parent, and we as the school, should want to avoid at all costs is a child being kept away from school when they are actually well enough to be in class learning.

A day of absence is a day of lost learning that can never be replaced, and we hope that you will support us in our efforts to provide your child with a first-rate education by ensuring they are only absent from school when they really need to be.

CONSENT AND INFORMATION FORM

Next week you will receive the very Annual Consent and Information Form that you will be requested to complete and return for every child that you have in the school.

It will be your chance to update your child's personal and medical details, and give your consent to a number of things during the year. It is absolutely essential that you complete and return the form by the date that will be on the letter that accompanies it.

We will send out a message via the mobile app on the day that it is being sent home so that you can look for it in your child's school bag.

Y1 TO Y6 WELCOME MEETINGS:

These will be taking place next week as explained in the letter that was sent out on Tuesday. Please wait in the main entrance shortly before the scheduled start time.

We welcome two new teachers to Holy Trinity this year. Miss Jackson is teaching in Key Stage 1 and Mr Doidge is teaching in Key Stage 2. Both are Newly Qualified Teachers, and both spent their final period of professional training with us last year so we know them well and we are very excited to have two talented and capable teachers joining our team.

Weekly dinner money is now £11.50 per week, and payment must be made at the start of the week in advance of meals being taken.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL DUE TO HOLIDAYS AND SHORT BREAKS

Attendance Regulations clearly state that there is no automatic right for a parent to remove their child from the school during term-time for a holiday. Where you intend to do this it is essential that a Holiday Request Form is completed well in advance and returned to school.

Where there are deemed to be exceptional circumstances the absence will be authorised.

Last year we became aware that several families took holidays and breaks without making a request or informing the school. In most of these instances illness was falsely used as an excuse for the child's absence.

Please note that in almost every case we find out the real reason for a child's absence. The children themselves tell staff or friends either before or after the event, or other parents become aware and report it to us. Lying about a child's absence is a serious matter and breaks the trust between school and home. It also places a great amount of stress on the child who may be encouraged to lie to their teacher about their absence. This is unacceptable.

This year, where we discover that a holiday or short break has been taken without a request being made, we will automatically inform Lancashire County Council and request that a Fixed-Penalty Notice is issued. This is £120 per parent per child. Persistent abuse of the system can result in additional court action.

Where a request is received and not authorised, it does not automatically mean that a Fixed-Penalty Notice will be issued. We try to adopt a common sense and sympathetic approach to term-time holidays, but we will not tolerate situations where a parent attempts to deceive us about the reason for their child's absence. Please work with us, not against us.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE THE MOBILE APP BY ENTERING SETTINGS THEN NOTICES AND DE-SELECTING YOUR CHILD'S YEAR GROUP FROM LAST YEAR AND SELECTING THEIR NEW ONE. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT YOU RECEIVE ANY SPECIFIC MESSAGES FROM THEIR NEW CLASS TEACHER. PLEASE ALSO MAKE SURE THAT THE WHOLE SCHOOL BUTTON IS SELECTED AS WELL.

Copies of all newsletters are published on the home page of the school website.

YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL VISIT 2019:

Letters inviting parents to request a place for their child were sent out yesterday, and should be returned by 3.15 p.m. on Monday.

If you have not had a child take part in the visit before, and you want to know a little more about it please visit www.educationaway.co.uk which is the website of our base in North Wales. By searching the blog and clicking on July 2018 visits you will find lots of photographs of our most recent visit. Alternatively, please speak to Mr Aspin if you have any questions.

SAFETY AROUND SCHOOL
Please park legally, considerately and safely around the school at the start and end of the school day. The school car park cannot be used by parents as a dropping-off point, picking-up point or turning area. Parents of children who attend Breakfast Club may use the car park up to 8.30 a.m. only.

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CLASS ATTENDANCE COMPETITION		
1 st Place		
2 nd Place		
3 rd Place		
This week's Overall School Attendance Rate >>>>>>>>>>>		
The Attendance Rate since the Start of the School Year >>>>>>		