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Head Teacher: Mr T Abbs

14th August 2024

Dear Parents

I hope you are enjoying your summer break thus far.

Below are a few key headlines I wish to draw your attention to ahead of returning in September **in order to be transparent and best prepare you:**

1. Attendance (including statutory changes across England from 19th August 2024):

-School starts at 08:45. Please arrive just before in order to be in on time. Side gates open 08:35 approx.

-Side gates will be locked at 9am. Register closes at 9am. Please sign in via the foyer and give a reason for lateness (which needs to be recorded) if you have arrived after the gates have been locked.

A late mark now constitutes as an 'unauthorised' absence for that session e.g. for the entire morning.

New Penalty notices for unauthorised absences

10 sessions (equivalent 5 days) over a rolling ten week period will likely lead in a penalty notice (fine): £160 (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days).

A second penalty notice (within a 3 year period): **£160 fine**

A third penalty notice (within a 3 year period): **up to £2500 and/or up to 3 months in prison.**

What is an unauthorised absence?

Are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been granted.

Unauthorised absence includes, (however this list is not exhaustive):

- *Parents/carers **keeping children off school unnecessarily e.g. because they had a late night or for non-infectious illness or injury** that would not affect their ability to learn.*
- *Absences which have never **been properly explained.***
- *Pupils who **arrive at school after the close of registration** are marked using a 'U'. This indicates that they are in school for safeguarding purposes, however, is counted as an absence for the session; **shopping trips; hair appointments, visiting family, taking part in a protest or birthdays.***
- *Looking after other children or children **accompanying siblings or parents to medical appointments.***
- *Their own or family **birthdays.***
- ***Holidays** taken during term time, not deemed 'for exceptional purposes' by the Head Teacher, including any arranged by other family members or friends. **There is no entitlement in law for pupils to take time off during the term to go on holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure or recreation, or to take part in protest activity in school hours.** In addition, the Supreme Court has ruled that the definition of regular school attendance is "in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school."*
- ***Day trips.***
- ***Other leave of absence in term time which has not been agreed.***

Coding is always at the Head Teachers discretion.

Please look out for our new Attendance Policy 2024/2025 (released in August 2024) which will cover all aspects of how we manage and celebrate school attendance in greater detail.

2. Boots

In a previous correspondence and based on feedback, we said we would consider pupils being able to wear boots as part of our standard uniform policy. We are happy for pupils to wear boots providing they are:

-black & smart: ankle boot height. They should not be excessively chunky and only have a low heel – sensible tread for day to day running, climbing, swinging, and playing sports etc. at break and lunchtime as our pupils do.

We will update our policy with words to that effect. Again, I wanted to prepare you in case you were considering late Autumn/Winter footwear.

3. Information for Parents

Attached is our yearly Information for Parents document. We encourage you to read this every year. New information/updates are in yellow for ease of reference.

We will be in contact before our return to share further information as appropriate. In the meantime, thank you in advance for your support and I do hope you enjoy the rest of your summer.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Abbs
Head Teacher