



Newsletter Friday 24th May 2024

Matthew 19 14 -15

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because God's kingdom belongs to people who are like these children." After Jesus blessed the children, he left there.

Dear Parents and carers,

It has been a very busy couple of weeks since our last newsletter - especially for year 6.

Year 6 did their end of year SAT tests in reading, spelling and maths. There were definitely areas of challenge but everyone applied themselves, used the skills that they have been taught and tried their best. The pre-exam breakfasts were well received, indeed Miss Jefferies is considering a change of career to become a cafe owner!

Then, this week, many of our year 6 children have been to Wales on their outdoor and adventurous holiday. From high ropes to canoes so much fun was had by all - not to mention food fit for kings and queens. Those children that stayed with us in school were delightful. They just got on with their learning and were great assets to the class teachers they were assigned to.

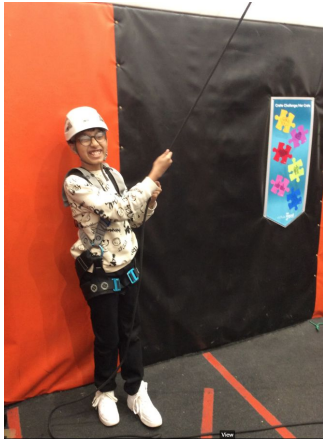
And then - we had ACE time for our ALWAYS children - those children who have had less than 3 thunderclouds over the half term. This was the vast majority of the school - A HUGE well done. There were a relatively small number of children who could not take part because of their behaviour choices. We are very fair in the way our behaviour system works - children are always given warnings and the opportunity to change their behaviour before any action is taken. We ALWAYS listen to both sides of a story, we always investigate, we always act with fairness and consistency. What is becoming increasingly hard is the lack of support we are receiving from some parents - to the point where children are being kept off school rather than receive the consequence that their behaviour has earned them. We teach our children, right from reception class, that we are each in charge of our own choices and actions. We encourage truthfulness and 'owning' whatever behaviour has been displayed. We urge children to tell you the whole story - warts and all. So often, you will receive a 'version' of the event, where things have been omitted or embellished. We are always available to chat things through and we operate with a firm, fair and honest attitude. We believe that our approach sets all children up well for life and the expectations society places upon us all.

Best wishes

Mrs M M Underwood

Well Done!

Robinwood





Swimming with Year 4



This term Year 4 have been learning all about water safety and what to do if they ever fall into a canal or reservoir.

Year 5



Pupils from Marsden Heights came to read and answer questions with the year 5 children about their current novel - Oliver Twist.



Dates for your Diary:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Friday 24th May | - School finishes 3.30pm for May Half Term |
| Tuesday 4th June | - School reopens 8.45am |
| w/c Monday 10th June | - Year 1 Phonics screening check |
| Wednesday 12th June | - Welcome evening for new intake 6pm |
| Wednesday 12th June | - Year 5 trip to Gawthorpe |
| Friday 14th June | - Whole school non uniform (tombola items) |
| Tuesday 18th June | - Year 4 trip to Towneley Park |
| Friday 28th June | - Food Fair |
| Wednesday 17th July | - Year 6 Leavers Party 5-6.30pm |
| Friday 19th July | - School closes at 2pm - Summer break |

Medication in school

Please could we remind parents that if your child requires calpol/ibuprofen or piriton throughout the school day, this should be provided and a green slip can be obtained from the office to hand to the class teacher.

Friends

Our next meeting of Friends will be held on Tuesday 2nd July at 3.40pm. All are welcome to attend and child care can be arranged in school.

Uniform

Please ensure children come into school everyday in full uniform - this includes a tie. A lot of children seem to be missing their ties daily - these can be purchased using Parentpay.

Food Fair

We will be holding a non uniform day on Friday 14th June in return for tombola items for our upcoming Food Fair. More information to follow.

Good News Announcements

This weeks Medal Winners are:

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------|--|
| Aleena / Joel | - Rec | - For amazing writing and retelling of Superworm |
| Zimmel / Minnie | | |
| Ema | - Year 1 | - For amazing writing and adding detail to her sentences |
| Romie- Beau | - Year 2 | - For an entertaining diary entry |
| Benjamin | - Year 2 | - For mastering maths |
| Jake | - Year 2 | - For sensational work with Mrs Latif |
| Blake | - Year 2 | - For working independently to write a diary entry |
| Rowan | - Year 4 | - For delightful DT work |
| Sam H | - Year 5 | - For an amazing attitude for learning |



ATTENDANCE WINNERS

Our winners w/e 17/05/24
were:

YEAR 2 with 93.1%



Parent Checklist



School Trips. Do you need to pay for your child's school trip? All school trips are live on Parentpay. Please ensure trips are paid on time and forms are completed and returned to school.

School Meals - Please remember to order your meal choices using Parentpay, these can be pre-ordered up to half term.

Is your child wearing the full and correct uniform? (Ties can be purchased via parentpay). Remember to send a suitable coat daily.

Is your **PE kit** in school and fully labelled? Remember Fitness Friday each week - Wear your Trainers.

Absence - Please inform the office of any sickness or absences before 9am and try and arrange appointments out of school hours where necessary.

Head Lice - Remember to check your child's hair regularly. There have been several reports of headlice in school recently.

Free School Meals - Are you eligible for **Free School Meals**? Use this link to check: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=2>

Uniform - You can order school uniform online <https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/greatmarsden> Please ensure that all clothing and belongings have your child's name in.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

School avoidance refers to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. In 2022-23, more than one in five children in England were found to be absent from school over 10% of the time. This guide focuses on school avoidance with an emotional basis, offering expert mental health advice. However, it's important to remember that school avoidance is a hugely subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics; bullying and friendship difficulties at school; pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams; or moving from primary school to secondary school.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include tummy aches, headaches, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

MANAGE OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

Acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss coping strategies together to help them manage difficulties. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk. This helps them understand that you are working together towards a common goal, and that these strategies can be used when bigger feelings arise.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and spent away from screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetable routine for the child's school day, if required.

RECOGNISE POSITIVE STEPS

Drawing attention to a child's successes – be they big or small – can help to give them some much-needed confidence and motivation. Celebrate these daily victories – such as getting out of bed on time or completing school work – and don't hesitate to let the child know when you're impressed or proud of them. Such an approach can go a long way.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Saleman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Online relationship support for parents



Parents in this area can now access **THREE ONLINE COURSES** from the relationship experts at OnePlusOne. Learn to cope with stress and communicate better, wherever you are in your parenting journey.

FOR
ALL
PARENTS



Arguing better

Disagreements are a normal part of life. How you approach them can make all the difference to you, your partner, and your children. You will learn:

- How to recognise stress and how it can affect you.
- How to support each other through difficult times.
- What causes arguments and how to stop them.

FOR
NEW
PARENTS



Me, You and Baby Too

Learn how to navigate the changes that happen in a relationship when a baby arrives, including:

- How you and your partner can support each other.
- How to talk to bring up difficult topics.
- How arguments start, and how to stop them.

FOR
SEPARATING
PARENTS



Getting it right for children

When parents are separating or separated, children can often get caught in the middle. Learn how to manage conflict to minimise the impact it has on your children, as well as:

- How to stop a discussion from turning into an argument.
- How to stay calm and listen as well as talk.
- Skills for finding solutions and making compromises.

To access the courses, you will need a smartphone, tablet, or computer, and a good internet connection. They are all **FREE** to use, so you'll just need to select your local authority area and create an account with a username and password.

You can get started by scanning the QR code or visiting:

www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents



Friday 28th June

Food Fair

We are having a celebration
of our DT Food Fortnight.

Visit your child's class from
3.10pm then join the fun in
the hall from 3.30pm.

Stalls include: tombola; guess the teddy's
name; pig racing; hook a duck. hoopla; and
much more!