



St Aidan's Primary School

A Church of England Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Debbie Greenwood

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Harrison

Newsletter 37 – 5th July 2024

Outward Bound Meeting for 24/25

There are **ONLY 3 places left!** The deadline to pay the deposit has been extended until Friday 12th July. If your child is wanting to go on this trip you need to pay the deposit payment of £40 via Schoolmoney.



Attendance-changes to Penalty Notices

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to fixed penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence during term time.

These changes will come into effect on 19th August 2024.



The changes to be aware of are:

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19th August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of **£160 per parent per child**. This can be paid at **£80 if paid within 21 days**.
- A second penalty notice issued to the same parent, for the same child, within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days, with no option for a discounted rate.
- The threshold at which a penalty notice must be considered is set at **10 sessions** (equivalent to 5 days) of **unauthorised absence** within a **rolling 10-school week period**. This may include absences as a result of **arriving late after the register closes (after 9.30am)**. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions)

Leavers' service at the Cathedral

Year 6 attended the Leavers' service at Blackburn Cathedral on Tuesday. They took part in some fun reflection activities alongside other Church of England schools in the diocese. The service was wonderful, celebrating the pupils time at Primary school and encouraging them as they journey on to High school.

Moving Up Day

Our Moving Up day was a great success this week and the children enjoyed meeting their new teachers. The class teachers in September are as follows:



Reception	Miss Keegan
Year 1	Miss Rigby
Year 2	Miss Brindle
Year 3	Miss Kay
Year 4	Mr Eccles
Year 5	Mrs Moss
Year 6	Miss Cornall

We would also like to welcome Mrs Hargreaves who has been appointed as our new deputy headteacher from September.

School Milk

The parents/carers of pupils in the current Reception and Year 1 classes should have received an email this week with a link to complete the online consent form requesting whether or not your child requires milk in the autumn term (from September 2024). **It is extremely important that this form is completed by Monday 8th July**, to enable the office staff to order the correct quantity of milk for September.

If you do not complete the online form, milk will not be ordered for your child next term.

Year 6

Year 6 are raising money for St Catherine's Hospice for their annual charity fundraiser by completing a sponsored 5k walk on Monday 8th July.

St Catherine's Hospice aims to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of adults, children and young people who have a terminal illness or life-limiting condition. They are a wonderful charity who help those who need it most.

The link to the Just Giving page is below if you find this way easier to donate:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/st-aidans-5k-sponsored-walk-for-st-catherines-hospice>

Dinner money charges

Unfortunately due to rising costs we are having to increase our dinner prices from £2.41 to £2.70 per day, £13.50 per week. This is effective from Tuesday 3rd September 2024.

Talk and Tales Years 1 and 2



Talk and Tales has been cancelled next Tuesday, 9th July. The final session will be on Tuesday 16th July.

Place2Be

Unfortunately, due to budget cuts and a lack of counsellors we will no longer be able to have Place2Be in school. We have worked with them to provide mental help support for many of our pupils and families for the last eight years. I would like to thank them for their help and support- they will be missed.

In September we are going to introduce Thrive. Which, for us, will be a way of implementing a whole school approach to mental health, involving, identifying and addressing the needs of pupils, staff and the wider community and creating an environment that removes barriers to learning in a more cost effective way. In line with Public Health England's 8 principles of a whole school approach, Thrive will provide expert training and an online tool that will empower us to not only promote mental health and wellbeing, but improve behaviour, attendance and attainment.

Food parcels

A local businessman kindly donates 2 food parcels per week to school which are available to our families. If this is something you would be interested in and that could help during the current financial crisis please complete the form that was sent out via email to all parents or contact the office.

Too Good To Go App



This may be an ideal app for any one currently struggling with the increase in food prices. It's a great way to purchase food at very reasonable prices. Surplus food from your favourite restaurants/cafes and grocery stores is available to buy daily. All you have to do is download the app, search for a surprise bag near you from your chosen store, reserve it through the app and turn up at the store to collect it at the given collection time

Head lice



These cause much frustration amongst parents. Every school in the country has to constantly contend with this menace. **To try and control the spread of head lice our policy is to contact parents of children who are seen to have head lice so that they can be collected, treated and returned to school. In most cases a child can return to school the same day.**

Please remember, if head lice are found then it is important to check every family member in the household and to check again a week later.

Please note that **we will authorise a maximum of half a day's absence for head lice to be treated.** Thank you for your support in this.

FOUR STEPS TO LICE-FREE LIFE:



1: INSPECT

If you suspect head lice, check



2: TREAT

Use lice treatment product as directed.



3: REMOVE

lice/nits by combing the hair with the comb provided.



4: CLEAN

home and personal items.

Please can we ask that children with long hair try and keep it tied up tight, either in a ponytail or plait to try and prevent Head lice

Reception class 24/25

We still have a few places available. If you know of any one who has a child starting school in September who could be interested in starting at St Aidan's, they are very welcome to come and look around the school. Please contact the school office to arrange this.

Christmas Pantomime 2024 – Jack And The Beanstalk



Our annual trip to Blackburn Empire Theatre is now only 26wks away! This year we will be watching Jack And The Beanstalk Pantomime on Thursday 5th December. The cost of this trip is **£7.00** per pupil for our current Reception-Year 5 pupils.

We appreciate the current rise in living costs and we have found over the years that parents don't make the payment(s) until December, when this is already a busy and expensive time for everyone, so the payment is available on Schoolmoney. This gives you the opportunity to spread the cost into affordable weekly/monthly payments or alternatively pay the amount in full. It is nice to see that quite a few parents have already made the payment-thank you.

For example: paying just 50p per week for 14 weeks or £1.00 per month for 7 months will have one child paid well in advance and without feeling the pinch!

Blackburn Fire Station open day



Class Trips

As part of the pupils theme work, class trips have been organised for the following classes:-



Y6-Liverpool Museum

Please note: A packed lunch will be provided by the school for pupils who normally have a school meal.

ALWAYS House Statistics

ALWAYS following the school rights this week:

HODDER	CALDER	BLAKEWATER	RIBBLE
98%	96%	98%	94%

Dates for the Diary

Y6 Leavers production (2.00pm & 6.00pm)

Y6 trip to Liverpool Museum

Reports to be sent home

Y6 Leavers service in Church 2.00pm

Y6 Leavers party 6.00pm

Awards presentation assembly

School closes for summer 1.15pm

Wednesday 10th July

Thursday 11th July

Monday 15th July

Thursday 18th July

Thursday 18th July

Friday 19th July

Friday 19th July

Kind regards

Mrs D Greenwood
Headteacher