

SCHOOL NEWS

Fines for term time holidays | Performance tickets | HMI

Christmas Performance Tickets

We would like to make a polite reminder to all parents who have children performing in Christmas performances that 2 tickets are available per family. These have to be obtained in advance and will NOT be available on the door. We still have parents in Y1 and Y2 who have not yet claimed their tickets. We have extended the date for you to obtain your tickets from the office to Monday. After this day, tickets will be randomly distributed to those on the waiting list. Due to fire regulations, parents without tickets will NOT be admitted to the performance.

Parent Council

Unfortunately, our Parent Council meeting this half term had to be postponed to early January. I would welcome any feedback regarding Christmas Performances and ideas for the future. Please contact your parent rep - or if you don't know who this is, you can email me directly. We will report back what has been discussed after the meeting in January.

Fines for term time holidays!!

Last April we sent home a letter outlining the new guidelines for issuing fines for unauthorised absences. These are called EPNs (Education Penalty Notices).

This term we have been asked by the Local Authority to step up our action in issuing EPNs, as persistent absenteeism is proving to be a continuing concern.

It is likely that we will be issuing our first EPN at the beginning of January as a result of extended holidays being taken alongside the Christmas Holiday.

Most parents are now using the the correct form to request authorised leave. I always consider and reply to these on an individual basis. If the absence will not be authorised, you will be advised at this point if a fine will be applicable.

We have had a great deal of requests for holidays with the purpose of visiting family and grandparents. These circumstances are NOT considered to be exceptional and will not be authorised.

Please note that if parents do not phone in to give reason for an absence, it will be followed up by school before 10am on that day. This is to ensure that the child is safe. If there is no reply, our Education Welfare Officer will be asked to make a home visit. If there are any suspicions that a child is on holiday and not poorly at home, again, the EWO will make a home visit.

We take attendance very seriously as it has a significant impact on your child's education. We ask you to make close reference to the holiday lists published on our website and ensure holidays are taken within these times.





Key 103's

Mission Christmas

I would like to remind everybody that the day to bring in an unwrapped present for Key 103's Christmas appeal is this coming Monday - 8th December. This is an extremely worthwhile cause and to understand the purpose of giving a present in this way is important for the children. Please support if you can.

Christmas Fair - Thank you!!

I would like to say once again, many thanks for so many generous donations in the weeks leading up to the fair. The donation days have proved to be hugely successful and parents, as well as members of the local community, have been extremely kind in their donations for the raffle and food stalls. All proceeds from the fair go straight back to our pupils in providing new resources, as well as as memorable experiences.

HMI visit

On Monday we were visited by HMI Mark Williams. He met with a group of children, the governors, Senior leadership Team, Local Authority and spent an hour and a half going into classrooms and looking at children's books. He spent time looking in detail at our Post-Ofsted Action Plan and said it was a very sound basis on which to drive improvement in school. He said that the actions were planned with a challenging rate of pace, but stressed this was necessary for the school to put the required improvements in place.

He recognised that there had been many improvements with the marking and level of challenge in children's work - notably English. Our next step is to ensure Maths is marked as effectively and the children are 'problem solving' on a regular basis. We have already planned staff training and the sharing of staff expertise in order to improve performance in this area.

We were pleased to learn that Mr Williams intends to support and re-visit the school in the coming terms and ensure appropriate guidance and judgements are given as we prepare for re-inspection within the next 24 months. His letter summarising his findings will be published early next week and you will be able to read it on our website.

I hope to see many of you at the Fair tonight and am sure an enjoyable time will be had by all.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows

