

A MESSAGE FROM MRS WALSH

National Phonics Screening takes place week beginning 10th June for Year 1 and retakes for Year 2. Next term we are completing our end of year assessments, children need good attendance to ensure they get the best results possible.



We are noticing that school attendance is lower than expected, please encourage your children to come to school every day. I wish you all a good half term break. Many thanks, Mrs Walsh.

Year 2 Role Model Ambassadors

We have had our celebration donut party today, the children have also helped Mrs Walsh review the school rules to make them easier for the younger children to remember. We now need to take their suggestion to the teaching staff and parents. You will hear about this next term.

The children have suggested the school rules should be:

- Be Kind
- Be Safe
- Be ready to learn

These are simple and easy to remember!

Lets Walk Together Event

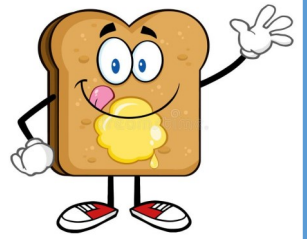


The children have enjoyed meeting up and walking to school with parents and staff. We hope all the parents enjoyed coming together and walking to school.



Toast

As the children have really enjoyed having a slice of toast in the mornings. We are continuing with this next term.



We are encouraging all children to **arrive to school on time before 8.55am**, to be able to have some toast before class starts.

Nursery Places September 2024

If your child is **3 years old** before 31st August 2024 and you would like them to join our Nursery class for September 2024. Please click on this link and complete the online application form.



<https://www.palfreyinfant.co.uk/nursery-class-admissions/>

Thank you for those who have already completed the form.

Please check your emails for stay and play sessions and dates of teacher meetings. These will be sent soon.

PE DAYS:



This years PE days are:

Monday: Class 8 and Class 4

Tuesday: Class 9 and Class 6

Wednesday: Class 5 and Class 7

Thursday: Nursery

Friday: Reception Classes

Please can they come to school
in their PE kits

REMINDER

Please can you make sure your child has the following:

- All Clothing to have their names in.
- Water Bottles in school every day with their names on.
- Children to bring their book bag every day.
- Please check their bookbags on Fridays for any homework.
- Encourage them to read their books and complete their homework
- Access 2do on Purple Mash

Free School Meals 2023-24.

Could your child be entitled to a
FREE school meal?



We would like all parents to sign up for the Free School Meals within school. Your child may be entitled to the pupil premium . This is a grant given by the government to schools in England to decrease the attainment gap for the most disadvantaged children, whether by income or by family upheaval.

Please access the link and complete the online form here: [Free school meals | Walsall Council](#)



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Headteacher: Mrs Alison Walsh

19.1.2023

Dear Parents

I have received an interesting article from a parent regarding school policies around school attendance. I felt a letter to explain our rationale would be of benefit to you.

Firstly we have a statutory duty to improve attendance and reach government expected targets. This is currently 96%. This is measured via Ofsted as part of their 'Behaviour & Attitudes' section. As a school governing body we spend time discussing this issue. Our 3 key issues regarding attendance are:

- 1. Childhood illness (obviously our cohort aged 3-7 will get these)**
- 2. Term time extended leave (1%+ of our annual attendance is created by this)**
- 3. Eid (1% of our annual attendance can be affected due to our demographic , sadly the government make no allowance)**

We recognise other life / family issues too.

How does Palfrey try to work with parents to improve attendance.

1. We challenge term time extended leave in agreement with local schools, no holidays are authorised and we work with parents to reduce the days of absence
2. We try where possible to have at least 1 Inset day around Eid (but sadly this is sometimes not possible)
3. We work with parents whose children have below expectation absence, we know our children with chronic illnesses/ family issues etc and these are accounted for.

Our Attendance Reward Systems

1. 100% badges & certificates, because it is hard we recognise this.
2. 96% certificates
3. Class stickers 96% weekly (to encourage a class group)
4. Class attendance winners each term get a prize. This term its C4 making pizza.
5. Prizes / certificates for pupils on an attendance action plan who show significant improvement.
6. We also make allowances for pupils with significant chronic illness (hospital appointments/ hospital stays) , pupils who have had to be away from school due to safeguarding (they may be moved for a short period) we don't advertise these pupils as you will appreciate its confidential.
7. Prizes for pupils with mental health issues.
8. A tombola prize for parents whose children have achieved high attendance for the term. Children are entered into a draw to win a hamper each half term. The more full weeks attended the greater the chance of winning. (this is a new initiative)

So yes whilst we do give certificates/ badges for 100% we feel we also do consider those other pupils and give other rewards to them.

As a Headteacher of a primary school previously I am fully aware that our 3-7 year olds are reliant on their grown-ups to value their education to get them to school as they can't bring themselves. So as their advocate we will challenge parents if pupils attendance can be improved, when we conduct Pupil Progress meetings there is a direct correlation between attendance and attainment. My role is to give pupils the best chance to succeed, through many factors.

Finally I do recognise the large majority of our families are respectful of the school attendance policy and are ensuring their children attend regularly. We must work together to ensure all families understand the impact of none attendance on their child's life chances. We must work together to try to reduce the term time holidays as I can evidence this is the most challenging aspect to improve our school attendance.

I hope you have found this useful. Please do take a look at the attendance policy on our website which explains this in further detail. <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/palfrey-infant-school/UploadedDocument/b7988607-0263-4684-93d8-3d5e4cc6b615/attendance-policy-palfrey-infants-2023.pdf>

I have included my last report to GB on attendance for last term as you can see Holidays impacted greatly.

Reception – Year 2: Attendance 93.1% (Impacted by term time holidays)

Group Analysis by Attendance Category

Period: 04/09/2023 to 14/01/2024

Scope: Reg Group

RR1+RR2+RR3+1Y1/4+1Y1/5+1Y1/6+2Y2/7+2Y2/8+2Y2/9

Percentage of Sessions

Group	Prese nts	AE A	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences	Possi ble	% Attend	Key issues
RR1	89.1	0.0	7.0	3.9	100.0	89.1	5 long term holiday 1 other
RR2	90.9	0.0	4.6	4.5	100.0	90.9	2 holiday
RR3	91.1	0.0	5.0	3.8	100.0	91.1	6 holiday
1Y1/4	95.8	0.0	3.5	0.7	100.0	95.8	2 holiday
1Y1/5	95.6	0.0	3.7	0.7	100.0	95.6	0 holiday
1Y1/6	94.1	0.0	4.2	1.7	100.0	94.1	3 holiday
2Y2/7	92.5	0.0	4.4	3.1	100.0	92.5	3 holiday
2Y2/8	93.0	0.0	3.7	3.3	100.0	93.0	5 holiday 1 other
2Y2/9	94.5	0.0	3.6	1.8	100.0	94.5	5 holiday 1 other
Totals	93.1	0.0	4.4	2.6	100.0	93.1	

Kind regards

Alison Walsh

New School Times

SCHOOL TIMES from SEPTEMBER 2023

NURSERY SCHOOL TIMES: September 2023

NURSERY	AM GROUP	PM GROUP
Kingfisher, Robin, Owl	8.30am-11.30am	12.30pm-3.30pm

RECEPTION SCHOOL TIMES: September 2023

	Classes 1, 2 & 3		
	Start Time	C2 & 3 End Time	C1 End Time
Monday- Friday	8.45am	3.15pm Main Gate	3.15pm Nursery Gate

YEAR 1 SCHOOL TIMES: September 2023

Classes 4, 5 & 6	Start Time	End Time
Monday- Friday	8.45am	3.15pm

YEAR 2 SCHOOL TIMES: September 2023

Classes 7, 8 & 9	Start Time	End Time
Monday- Friday	8.45am	3.15pm

Please be mindful we have a 10 minutes period for safe entry to school, there is no need to push and overcrowd the gate, this causes the children to be frightened and is unnecessary. After the initial rush there is plenty of time to enter calmly. Once children have gone through the gate, please clear the gateway for other children to enter, do not linger.

If you wish to get a message to the class teacher please speak with the school adults who are on the gate: Mrs Walsh, Mrs Adams.

Whitehall Road Entrance will be closed at 9am.

Try not to be late as this creates issues.

Any late pupils need to enter via the Bescot street entrance (entrance opposite Palfrey Garage)

Dates for your Diary:



26th May—31st May—Half Term

3rd June—School reopens— For Reception to Year 2—NO Nursery

4th June—Nursery Reopens—Normal Times

6th June—Cricket Coach After School—More details to follow

17th June—Inset Day—School Closed to Children for Eid

19th June—20th June—Year 2—Black Country Trip

27th June—Year 2 Black Country Games Day

10th July—11th July—Reception—Ash End Farm Trip

17th July—All School Sports Day

19th July—School Closes for the Summer Holiday

22nd July—1st September—Summer Holiday

2nd September—School Reopens for the New Academic Term

Purple Mash Blog:

Please visit Mrs Walsh's blog and Jude Blog for information on what's happening in classes. <https://www.purplemash.com/login>



Walsall Family Hub

Please see the Walsall Family Hub on Facebook, @walsallfamiliesintheknow or visit. <https://www.walsallfamilyhubs.co.uk/>

for information on various courses, events and help.

