

A MESSAGE FROM MRS WALSH

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a pleasant Christmas and New Year break.

Please can all parents be courteous and respectful when waiting to collect children at the end of the day , we ask all parents to queue in front of their child's class and be patient with staff dismissing the children.

Safeguarding is always at the forefront of our minds. We should always be positive role models to pupils. Thank you Alison Walsh



MMR Vaccine

Walsall Council are holding a pop up clinic with trained healthcare professionals from the NHS and Vaccination UK.

If your child is aged 12—16 years old who have not been vaccinated they will be able to get their MMR vaccine at South and Central Locality Hub, Birchills Street, Walsall. WS2 8NF on **Saturday 27th January 9am—1.30pm.**

Alternately, please contact your GP for more information.


Black Country
Is your 12-16 year old up to date with their MMR vaccine?

Measles cases are increasing locally
Book to attend a pop-up measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine clinic near you, to ensure your child is protected from measles.
More info in the caption 

ATTENDANCE SPECIAL

At the end of each full term, any children who have 100% attendance receives a certificate and a badge, the children who have 96%+ attendance also receive a certificate. We ran a prize draw for the **Super Attenders of the Autumn Term** (they had 14 full weeks attendance out of 15 possible weeks). The prize was a wonderful family hamper (see picture below). To increase your chance of winning this hamper in the Spring Term ensure your child completes as many full weeks of school as possible.

This Autumn Term

55 Children had 100% attendance. They received a certificate and a badge.

89 children had 96%+ attendance. They all received a certificate

Super Attenders Hamper

Well done to Ayesha in Class 5 who won the Super Attenders Hamper.





Palfrey Infant School

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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

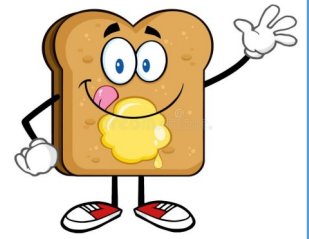
Group	Prese nts	AE A	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences	Possi ble	% Attend	Key issues
RR1	89.1	0.0	7.0	3.9	100.0	89.1	5 long term holiday 1 other
RR2	90.9	0.0	4.6	4.5	100.0	90.9	2 holiday
RR3	91.1	0.0	5.0	3.8	100.0	91.1	6 holiday
1Y1/4	95.8	0.0	3.5	0.7	100.0	95.8	2 holiday
1Y1/5	95.6	0.0	3.7	0.7	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

Toast

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



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

Parents Evening

Reminder—Parents evening will be held after school each evening next week (29th January).



Parents Evening



Please see your child's teacher for times and dates. It is very important for you to attend this meeting as their progress and targets for this year will be discussed and shared with you.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress or issues within school, this would be a good time to discuss these with your child's teacher

Reception and Junior Applications 2024

Thank you to all the parents who have completed their applications for Reception and Junior schools

The National Closing Date of Reception and Junior

Places has now passed. Late applications will be considered by the end of February through Walsall Admissions.

National Primary offer day will be on **16th April 2024**. You will receive an email confirming the school to be offered for September 2024.



Reception Parent Play and Stay Session



Reception will be inviting parents to work with their child in class, focusing on Reading, Writing and Maths.

All Sessions will be from 2pm—3pm.

Please add the following into your diaries:

- **Monday 5th February 2024**
- **Wednesday 20th March 2024**
- **Monday 20th May 2024**



Nursery Parent Stay and Play Sessions

Nursery will be inviting parents to work with their child in class, focusing on Reading, Writing and Math, supporting parents helping their children at home.



All Sessions will be from 10am—11am and 2pm—3pm.

Please add the following dates into your diaries:

- **Thursday 8th February 2024**
- **Monday 18th March 2024**
- **Thursday 23rd May 2024**



PE DAYS:



This years PE days are:

Monday: Class 9 and Class 4

Tuesday: Class 7 and Class 6

Wednesday: Class 5 and Class 8

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](#)

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:



- 8th January—School Opens Normal Time
- 15th January—Primary applications for Reception and Junior places 2024 closes.
- 22nd January—The Fire Service meets Reception
- 29th /30th /31st January—Parents Evening Week
- 8th February— E-Safety day
- 8th February—School Finishes for children for Half term
- 9th February—**Inset Day**—School closed to pupils
- **12th February—16th February HALF TERM**
- 19th February—**Inset Day**—School Closed to Pupils
- 20th February—School opens to all—Normal times.

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.