

## William Penn Newsletter 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018

### Staff and Governor Update

This week we say goodbye to Mr Ruff for personal/health reasons and also to Mrs Walmisley-Davies. We would like to thank them both for the contributions that they have made to the school. From next week, we welcome back Carl Petros from Purely Sport to perform PE coaching duties on a Wednesday (Cadbury and Fox) and Friday (Fry and JBB) and also to run the Tuesday after school club (beginning Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October owing to Parents' Consultations next week). Mrs Stephenson will be in touch with parents of children who have attended Mr Ruff's Monday after school club to discuss alternative arrangements. Please ensure that your children have PE kits in school for the newly timetables sessions.

We are very pleased to welcome Mr Ben Toogood to the Governing Body as our new parent governor. Mr Toogood lives in Coolham and has two children at the school. He is able to bring valuable skills and experience to the Governing Body and we are very much looking forward to working with him.

### William Penn School Open Day and Admissions to School September 2019

We would like to thank so many of you for visiting us on Open Day on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. We remain able to offer prospective parents a visit William Penn and would be very happy for you to pass on our contact details so that they can arrange a visit through Mrs Stephenson in the school office (01403 741274).

### School Attendance - Why is high attendance important to your child's education?

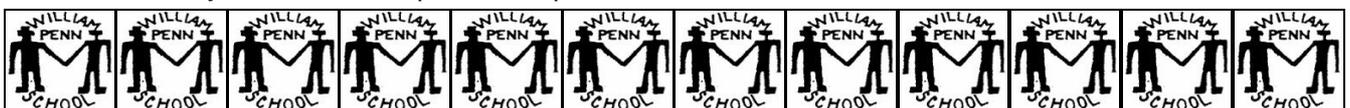
Did you know that:

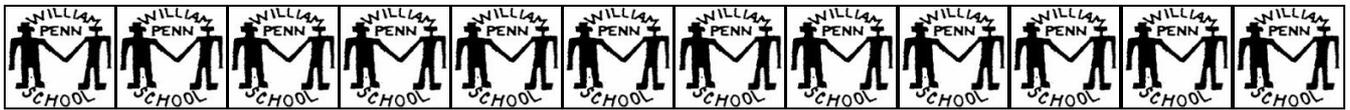
- a child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life
- 90% of young people with absence rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all
- poor examination results limit young people's options and poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable
- poor school attendance is also closely associated with crime a quarter of school age offenders have truanted repeatedly
- at least 1 million children take at least one half day off a year without permission
- 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absence.



GCSEs may seem a long way off for you and your child but all absence at any stage leads to gaps in your child's learning. This in turn can:

- mean that they fall behind in work
- affect their motivation
- affect their enjoyment of learning
- lead to poor behaviour
- affect their desire to attend school regularly
- affect their confidence in school
- mean they miss out on the social life of school and extra-curricular opportunities and experiences
- affect their ability to have or keep friendships.





At this time of year when autumn is beginning to set in, we often see a fall in school attendance. Whilst we would not like to see children in school who are unwell, it is often a judgement call as to whether children are well enough to attend. The pace of learning in school is such that every day represents precious learning time. If you are in a dilemma and think that your child might be well enough to attend but you are unsure, please bring them to school and we will liaise with you regarding their ability to cope during the day. Usually we find that children rally once back in routine.

### **Safeguarding Update - Access to Classrooms**

Please be reminded that access to Fry and JBB are strictly through arrangement via the school office. This is part of our school system for ensuring the safety of all our pupils. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Pupil Achievements**

Congratulations to Conor M-R who completed the Tough Mudder's Mini Mudder. Conor completed 4 laps raising money for Stand Up To Cancer! Also, Phoebe P has been awarded a bronze medal in the Sussex County Acrobatics Championships 2018 in her category of Grade 5 Women's Pairs. Well done.

If you have any pupil achievements that you would like mentioned in the newsletter, please e-mail the office: [office@williampenn.co.uk](mailto:office@williampenn.co.uk)

