

William Penn Newsletter 18th October 2019

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.



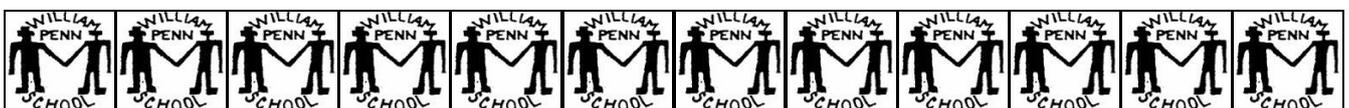
At this time of year when autumn is beginning to set in, we often see a fall in school attendance. Whilst we would not like to see children in school who are unwell, it is often a judgement call as to whether children are well enough to attend. The pace of learning in school is such that every day represents 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.



Fry Class Visit to Pulborough Brooks

"We enjoyed a fantastic trip to Pulborough Brooks. During the day we used maps and compasses to locate the River Arun and created a human river. We measured the speed of the water using dog biscuits! In the afternoon, we were soil specialists and used an auger to take soil samples and identify different soil types. We were also very lucky to see an adder! It was a great trip because we learnt about the River Arun by seeing it in real life."

By Amelia and Emma





Non-Uniform Days For Christmas Fayre Reminder with Amended Date 25th October

Please be reminded that the non-uniform days in support of the Christmas Fayre (Thursday 28th November) are as follows:

- Friday 25th October: donations for the Gift Tombola
- Friday 15th November: donations for the Chocolate and Sweets Stall

All donations are gratefully received.

In addition, on Wednesday 27th November we would be grateful to receive donations of cakes/mince pies. On this day, children will wear school uniform as normal.



There will also be a meeting in school on Wednesday 23rd October 3.30pm-4pm to discuss progress towards the fayre. Everyone is welcome at this meeting.

Terrific Times Tables

Learning times tables is really important. They are the building blocks of maths, and help with areas such as fractions, division and percentages. Memorising tables makes it far quicker and easier for your child to work out maths problems in their heads. It can also help to develop the ability to internally add, subtract and divide.

Perhaps most importantly, memorising your tables will give your child confidence in their own skills – there's nothing more 'grown up' than not having to use your fingers to work out an answer! This confidence will help them in SATs or other assessments, and ultimately, ease their move into secondary education. Take a look at www.timestables.co.uk for advice on how best to help your child learn these important number facts. There are also loads of fun games to help children practice. Any questions about this, please ask. Mrs Constable

Children in Need 2019 Reminder

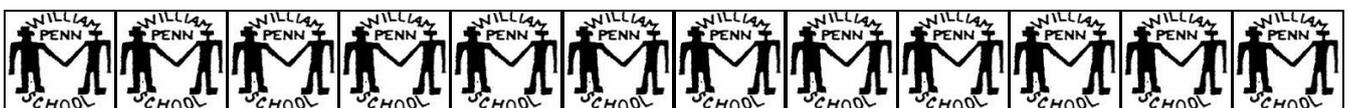


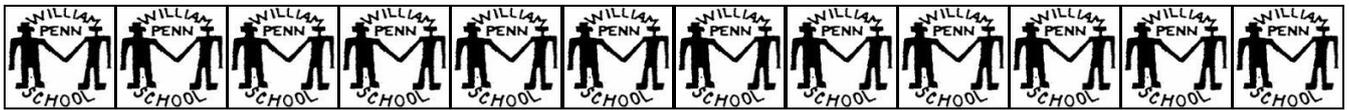
Whilst the official Children in Need day is Friday the 15th November, William Penn School are planning to celebrate Pudsey day a week later on **Friday 22nd November**. William Penn pupils have chosen to celebrate it by having a cake sale –run by the school council. Also the school council have voted that those children who wish to wear pyjamas are welcome to do so (shoes should be worn as normal). If you don't want to

bring any pyjamas or slippers you may wear a spotty top instead. Remember to bring in a donation as all the money raised will go to the charity Children In Need.

The Very Hungry Code-a-Pillar

As part of the [Horsham District Year of Culture](#), join Creative Assembly at the library for an interactive journey through children's classic story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, using their fun Code-a-Pillar learning toys.





Creative Assembly is an award-winning games development studio based in Horsham. They will be providing children with a fun introduction to coding and programming.

Parents and carers are asked to remain on the premises during this activity. Event is free but please book a ticket at the library as places are limited.

Library	Day	Date	Time	Age
Horsham	Thursday	31 October	10.30am – 11.30am	3 – 7 years
Billingshurst	Thursday	31 October	2.30pm – 3.30pm	3 – 7 years

Safeguarding Update – Message from the Road Safety Team

The Road Safety Team are looking for feedback from parents and guardians regarding the Bikeability service currently provided and how much it is valued.

Whether their children have already undertaken the training or will be doing this in the near future, their views and opinions are vital in helping us to secure future funding and improve the service we are able to offer.

I would be most grateful if the link below could be sent to your parents via your newsletters, parent mail etc.

<https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/highways-and-transport/3c5d2030/>

Once the survey has been completed, those parents leaving their contact details will be entered into a free 'Prize Draw' to win a £25 voucher of their choice (terms and conditions apply).

Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to Dylan F who was given man of the match award recently at Billingshurst FC under 7s match. Well done Dylan.

If you have any pupil achievements that you would like mentioned in the newsletter, please e-mail the office: office@williampenn.w-sussex.sch.uk

