

# Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - September 26th 2017

## **Class attendance**

Our target attendance is 96.5%. Whilst we appreciate that children are sometimes unwell, we ask that absence is kept to an absolute minimum so that children aren't missing learning. Please see below the class attendance for last week. As you can see, there are only 4 classes with attendance over our school target and there is no class with 100% attendance.

As well as class attendance figures, we monitor individual attendance. If your child's attendance falls below our target percentage, you will receive a series of letters which now escalate very quickly if attendance does not improve and sometimes it generates Education Welfare Officer involvement.

Reception - 91.3%

Year 1 - 98.5%

Year 2 - 92.3%

Year 3 - 94.3%

Year 4 - 97.2%

Year 5 - 97.4%

Year 6 - 97.3%

## **Lateness**

We also track and monitor children who arrive at school later than 9am, since lateness means lost learning. Please see below the impact of children being late for school:

5 mins late each day = 3 days lost learning over a year

10 mins late each day = 6.5 days lost learning over a year

15 mins late each day = 10 days lost learning over a year (2 school weeks equivalent)

20 mins late each day = 13 days lost learning over a year

30 mins late each day = 19 days lost learning over a year (equivalent of 4 school weeks across the year)

Lateness and absence will affect your child's attainment and progress at school, and the number of days a child is missing across a year will also affect their chances of success.

All children should be on the school yard for 8.55am, ready in their line for the bell at 9am. If your child arrives late, you will need to deliver them into school and give a reason as to why they are late. The child is given a 'late card' which goes to the class teacher, and then they record the late arrival on the register under a separate code. We would be grateful if parents would ensure that all children are in school at the correct time, to avoid any procedures that we have to follow if lateness becomes an issue.

If your child is absent for any reason, parents are expected to phone the school office by 9.15am to report the absence and **the reason**. This avoids the office staff having to contact parents, although we do not expect to have to do this. If your child is absent for more than 2 days, you are expected to phone again on the 3rd day to advise when your child will likely return. Thank you for your support with these matters.

### **Term time holidays**

In 2013, amendments were made to the Attendance Regulations by the Department of Education. Headteachers are not able to grant term time holiday or any term time absence unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. If leave of absence is taken without permission from the Headteacher, it will be marked as unauthorised. Under these Government regulations, any attendance marked as unauthorised can lead to the involvement of the Education Welfare Service in cases of poor attendance.

Once your child is registered at school, parents are legally responsible for making sure they attend regularly. This means your child should not have sessions of unauthorised absence.

It is the first year that we have had so many children on holiday in the first three weeks of a new school year. This will greatly affect children's learning at this key time of the school year, and we ask that parents avoid taking children out of school at this important time in future. Thank you for your support with this matter.

### **Applying for a Reception or High school place**

Our school office recently sent out information about applying for a place in either Reception or High School for September 2018. The Local Authority ask that parents complete the application online, by visiting [www.northtyneside.gov.uk](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk) and following the link to online school applications. Please note, if you are not completing the form online and you choose to complete a paper application, this **MUST** be returned by the deadline date to North Tyneside Access Team, not to school.

Online applications are now available and online admissions will close for a **High School place on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017**, and online admissions for a **Reception place will close on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018**.

Please note: if your child is currently in our school Nursery, this does not guarantee your child a place in our Reception class.

If you have any queries please email [school.admissions@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@northtyneside.gov.uk) with your child's name and date of birth.

### **Earrings and PE reminder**

Firstly, we appreciate that if you were going to have your child's ears pierced, you waited until the 6 weeks holiday. However, please note that as part of our school policy, earrings must be removed for all PE lessons. Please help your child learn how to remove and replace their earrings independently. Staff are unable to assist children with this. We do not allow children to cover their earrings with tape or plasters due to health issues caused by restricting airflow to the piercing. This is based on advice from the Local Authority. If a child cannot remove their earrings, they will be given non-active roles in lessons until they are able to remove and replace the earrings independently. Thank you for your support.

### **Wellies**

Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Godfrey have requested that all parents send a pair of wellies into school as soon as possible, for the children to use for outdoor learning. Please make sure that these are both labelled inside with your child's name thank you. Current reception will be sent home tonight with their wellies from last year in Nursery.

### **High school open evenings**

Please find below the dates for the open evenings at John Spence and Marden High School:

27<sup>th</sup> September 6-8pm - Marden

28<sup>th</sup> September 6-8pm - John Spence

### **Harvest coffee morning**

There will be a change to the format of Harvest Festival this year. We are keen to continue celebrating Harvest Festival, even though we are the only school in our pyramid of Primary Schools that does so.

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, we will be having a Harvest coffee morning in the school hall, where there will be slots for parents to come along and hear their children sing two Harvest songs, and then have refreshments with their child. As you will see, the times for the year group slots are tight; this is so that we can get all of the classes through before the lunchtime tables are set up in the hall at 11.30am and we ask that you leave the hall by the end of your child's slot for us to manage the changeover of both children and parents:



Nursery & Reception -9.10-9.50am

Year 1,2,3 -10.00-10.40am

Years 4,5,6 -10.50am-11.30am

The Friends of Preston Grange will be holding a tombola and raffle on the morning, as well as coffee, cake and other refreshments being available. As you can imagine, we will need a lot of cakes & biscuits (we have children in school with nut allergies, so please no nuts, thank you) to feed all of the parents & children across the whole morning, so we would be extremely grateful for any donations of cakes or biscuits and we ask that donations for cakes are sent into school either on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> or on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>. All of the money raised by the Friends of Preston Grange will go towards the tipi that the children requested for the school field. We look forward to seeing everyone on the morning of October 11<sup>th</sup>, but ask that you are aware of the specific slot that your child will be singing in the hall.

### Parents evening

Parents evenings will be held on Wed 1st November and Monday 6th November. This year Mrs Royle has set up the appointment booking on our online system. Parents will be receiving a letter about this in the near future. Thank you to Mrs Royle for setting this up; this will greatly reduce the paperwork for staff and make it easier for parents to sign up and select an appointment of your choice.

### Thank you

A HUGE thank you from school and the Friends of Preston Grange for the generosity in sending in so many donations for our Harvest coffee morning. If you are able to help at any time on the morning of 11th October, please contact the school office, where your name will be passed onto the Friends of Preston Grange.



### Parent curriculum packs

We hope that everyone received the parent curriculum packs that we have put together for your information. The resources were put together to inform parents about the expectations for the current year group and the spelling patterns for the year group. The pack also outlined the homework for each year group and provided a times table mat, a list of recommended websites to support your child at home in Maths and a recommended book list for each year group. In Early Years, we sent out Read Write Inc letter sound mats and some Maths number lines, formation sheets and Numicon sheets so that you may practice numbers with your child. Finally, parents received a half termly curriculum booklet which outlines the content that the children will be learning. If you have any questions or requests for any further information to be able to support your child at home, please contact school.

### Jeans for genes

Thank you for the kind donations for Jeans for Genes last Friday. We were delighted to have raised £179.25 for the charity.



## Paint and lights

Over the Summer holiday, the corridors throughout school were painted new bright colours and the old lighting was replaced with LED lighting. This makes the narrow corridors much improved, and they are more energy efficient. The children love the corridors, and said it was like opening the door on a bright sunny day when they came into school!

## Scholastic books

Last week Mrs Royle sent home the Scholastic book club magazine. If you would like to order any books, please send your order back to school by Friday 6th October at the latest thank you. For every book that is ordered, school receives 20% off books for school.

## Pantomime trip

Thank you for the forms and money that has already been returned to school for our annual trip to the pantomime. Please can all forms and money be returned to the school office by Friday this week at the very latest thanks.



## Newcastle Eagles tickets

We have been lucky to receive some golden tickets for the first Newcastle Eagles game of the season this Friday, at Sport Central in Newcastle. Year 5 and 6 received one of the golden tickets when the Eagles came into school during the second week of term, and we also have some additional golden tickets.

The deal is that the children get in free with a golden ticket, and if you require any other tickets, these are at a cost of £7 each (bought by phoning the number on the golden ticket information letter.). If there are any children in Year 5 and 6 who do not require their golden ticket, we would be grateful if you would return these to the school office before Friday. If you would like a golden ticket, please contact the school office.



## Dates for your diaries

- Wed 27th Sept - Reception Parents Reading meeting 3.40pm
- Wed 4th Oct - Parent 'Living & Growing' session for Y5 & 6 parents 3.40pm
- Thurs 5th Oct - Sports Hero funday lunch
- Wed 11th Oct - Harvest coffee morning
- Thurs 12th Oct - Year 2 Praise Party (pm)
- Tues 17th Oct - Flu immunisation Rec - Y4 (school nurses)
- Fri 21st Oct - Break up for October half term
- Fri 21st Oct - Wear It Pink day (non-uniform)

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, September 26th 2017