



Newsletter

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An academy, as part of The Westbrook Trust

Issue: 3

Date: 22nd September 2017

Headline

Attendance

As you know we are very keen to promote **good attendance** at school and have robust policies, systems and structures to monitor and support this. The children are also keen to raise our attendance rates and they are quite competitive when it comes to achieving the highest attendance figures!

If your child is absent from school, please let us know by **calling the absence line**. If you forget to call, we will contact you to find out the reason for your child's absence. This is to help us check that your child is safe and also decide what type of absence to record. If you do not provide us with the information requested, the absence will automatically be registered as unauthorised, which will go on your child's record. If your child is feeling 'under the weather' please remember we can administer medicine in school, you simply need to complete a permission form. **WE are always happy to monitor a child who is feeling poorly and keep you updated during the day, and will ask you to collect them if necessary.** If at all possible please arrange medical appointments for holidays or after school, and remember if you have to take your child to an appointment bring them to school first and they will receive their attendance mark for that session.

If your child struggles with their attendance we will refer you to the local authority Attendance Advisory Practitioner (AAP). The 'AAP' officer will call on you to discuss your situation, and offer support. They may also ask you to provide medical evidence (such as a doctor's appointment card, a prescription or evidence of medication) to confirm your child's illness. The AAP can also issue court warning letters and fixed penalty notices as they see fit. We

work closely with the Local Authority around raising attendance in school and rarely authorise holidays during term time. **Family holidays over 5 days will automatically trigger a fixed penalty notice (a fine) issued by Medway Council unless there are very exceptional circumstances.**

Please encourage your child to attend school every day – last year our whole school attendance was 95.8%, which is in-line with national figures but we want to be better than average! Our children want to aim for over 96% attendance for the whole year so please help them achieve this. To help monitor our progress towards this target we publish some attendance figures each week for your information in the newsletter.

Timekeeping

Every minute really does count. School mornings can be hectic. When your child is late for school this means that they are losing out on vital parts of their education. Being as little as five minutes late each day is the equivalent of missing three full days of school in one year.

The table below shows just how many days your child loses of their schooling by being late:

Minutes late per day	Days lost per year
5	3
10	6.5
15	10
20	13
25	19

LOST MINUTES = LOST LEARNING!

Coming Soon

Library Bus - 27th September
Harvest Festival Friday 6th October
Friday 13th October - Tag Day
Parents' evenings
Tuesday 17th October 15.30 - 19.00
Thursday 19th October 15.30 - 18.00

Term Dates 2017/18

Term 1

Tuesday 5th September 2017
until
Friday 20th October 2017

Term 2

Tuesday 31st October 2017
until
Tuesday 19th December 2017

Term 3

Monday 8th January 2018
until
Friday 9th February 2018

Term 4

Monday 19th February 2018
until
Thursday 29th March 2018

Term 5

Monday 16th April 2018
until
Friday 25th May 2018

Term 6

Tuesday 5th June 2018
until
Wednesday 25th July 2018

Attendance:

Last week's top 3 :

3/4P - 98.4%

FS2C - 98.5%

FS2L - 100%

Well done FS2L



The Westbrook Trust
Achieve together

News

Year 5/6 Trip to the British Museum

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 are visiting the British Museum on 27th November. They need to be in school by 08.15 on that day to leave promptly at 08.30. The cost for the trip is £16 - please see letter sent home with this newsletter for further details.

Flu Vaccination

Parents of children in Years R - 4 should have received a permission letter through the post from the NHS. This is for your child to receive the annual nasal flu vaccine. Please complete and return the forms to the school by the end of this term as the NHS team are here on 13th November to administer the vaccines to your children.

Year 5/6 PGL Residential Trip

If your child is interested in going on the PGL residential trip, please come to an initial information meeting on Tuesday 26th September at 6.00pm. Thank you.

Harvest Festival

Donations for Harvest Festival (6th October) should be given to your child's class teacher. Tinned: Beans, soup, tuna, spaghetti, ravioli, hot dogs etc
Dry items: Pasta, rice, tea, coffee, pasta sachets, cooking sauces etc

We will be supporting the charity 'Caring Hands' which is a registered charity that runs a day centre for homeless people in Chatham. They are totally dependent on the generous donations of Harvest Festival canned and dried food from Medway schools. This has provided vital basic food items from which Caring Hands supplies 40,000 meals and snacks annually - three times a day, five days a week, FREE to those who are homeless and most in need.

Reminders

Library Bus

The library bus will be in school on 27th September. Please make sure your child brings their library ticket to school on this day. Thank you.

Healthy Snacks and drinks

We are a healthy school and only healthy snacks and drinks can be brought in for break times. Children could bring fruit or a sandwich, but it must be kept separate from any packed lunch they bring. Fruit is provided free for all children under 7. However, please remember we are also a nut free school. Due to a number of severe allergies, children may not bring anything to school which contains nuts. Drinks should be water or sugar free squash.

In The Community

Do you enjoy hockey?

If you enjoy hockey or would like to introduce your child/ren to this fun sport, why not go along to the Old Williamsonians Hockey Club? They have men's, ladies', mixed and junior sides with the junior coaching sessions being free. They take place every Sunday from 10.00-11.30 am. Please contact them via email on oldwilliamsonians@hotmail.com

World's biggest coffee morning!

In aid of Macmillan cancer support at The Lampard Centre on Tuesday 26th September from 09.30 - 12.00. Come along for a nibble and a natter. Every slice of cake and cup of coffee helps make a huge difference to people facing cancer.

Shop well for less

The producers of the hit BBC One series *Shop Well For Less?* are currently casting for the third series and are on the lookout for fun and lively families and households to take part. This prime time series shows viewers how to spend without the splurge, helping to rein in spending but retain the lifestyle we all want.

Get in touch to apply or find out more!

0117 970 7670

Or e-mail: shopwell@rdftelevision.com

Pat on the Back

3/4A - Phoebe for hard work and beautiful presentation in her maths work and Max for continuously helping the teacher and others in class when he can

3/4F - Jamie for his improvement in his rugby skills during PE this week. Henley for his passion towards his stone age tools writing.

3/4M - Jack & Ebony for their work in history

3/4P - Caitlin for being helpful and supportive and Matthew for being a good role model for the class

5S - Joshua for consistently good work in Read Write Inc. and maths and Bethany for her times tables knowledge

5/6B - Alinafe for being a good role model for the Year 5 children and Sofia for working really well building friendships

6T - Oliver for the excellent way he has applied his learning during our topic lessons this week and Grace for the way she has applied herself during music, making good links with her prior knowledge.

Inclusions this week

- Y5/6 Trip letter
- Time keeping information

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, achieving equal opportunities and combating discrimination

Head Teacher: Mrs Sue Mason

Deputy Heads: Mrs Price (4-7 year olds) and Mr Presneill (7-11 year olds)

Family Liaison Officer: Mrs Liddle (07535 696125)

This school operates a very clear whistleblowing policy for staff