

News from the Federation – 24th October 2025

Frequent readers of the newsletter will know I often write about attendance. This is not just because this was our area for improvement in our OFSTED inspection two years ago but because evidence shows that children with high attendance are more likely to be academically and socially successful in later life. Children are expected, by the government, to be at school at least 95% of the time, and those below 90% are deemed 'persistently absent' and school must then be in contact to offer support to help this increase. There are some striking statistics on this – for example a child whose attendance is 90% will have missed the equivalent of 114 lessons during one academic year. At the end of this newsletter is some information from the local authority on the attendance procedures in school.

It is also worth noting that there is very little discretion for headteachers to authorise term-time leave and families are strongly encouraged to avoid taking children out of school unless for the most exceptional circumstances.

With this in mind, attendance at TM this half term has been very positive, with the school average around 96% and, to my (probably excessive) delight, a number of days where we have exceeded 99%. Thanks to all parents and carers for their support with this. As the children have attended school so well for the past 8 weeks, I have told them today they may have next week off... Have a great half term break!

Mr Monro

Newsletter and Instagram

After half term, our newsletter will be changing format and we will be moving to a Sway which will hopefully be more accessible on different devices! Do let us know how this works for you next half term. Also a reminder that the link at the top of this newsletter will take you to the Federation Instagram account where you will see examples of some of the exciting things taking place in school each week – do follow the Federation!



[Instagram](#)



Term Dates:

[Term Dates Link](#)

Friday 31st October

Deadline for Secondary applications

Monday 3rd November

First Day of Autumn 2

Wb Monday 3rd/10th November

Parent Consultations

Wednesday 5th November

Open Classrooms

Friday 7th November

School Disco

Tuesday 25th November

Flu Vaccinations

Friday 28th November

Year 5 Trip to Harry Potter Studios

Parent Consultations

You will have already received, or will shortly receive, an invitation to sign up for a parent consultation slot. These will be held virtually in the first two weeks of term. Please do sign up as these are an important opportunity to share how your child is getting on and discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

Open Classrooms

A reminder that Open Classrooms will take place after school on Wednesday 5th November. You will be welcome into the class where your child's books will be available to see. This will take place from 3.10 to 4pm. If you are unable to come at this time, please speak to your child's class teacher.

How you can help your child at home!

Below are some suggestions of things you could do to help your child at home:

- Read – this is the top priority and the most valuable thing you can do to help! Having your child read to you, reading to your child or sharing a book is shown to have a hugely positive impact on a child's potential progress at school.
- Practise mental maths – Use Times Tables Rockstars to help speed up a child's fluency or games like 'Hit the Button' to help practise number bonds in the younger years.
- Remind children of some of the things they have learned this year: the curriculum overview documents shared at the beginning of term will show you the key content for your child's year group this half term. If you want some additional resources to help, the Oak Academy can provide some online resources that may be useful.
- Writing – could your child write a letter (to Santa?) or a diary of something they do over the half term break. Try to make writing practical and with a purpose so it does not feel so much like 'school work'.
- Talk to your children about what they have learned this half term!

Hot Chocolate Sale

Our first school year fundraiser was a great success! Thank you to everyone who supported our hot chocolate sale. Together we raised an amazing **£112.90** for the PTA.

A special thank you goes to our Head Boy and Head Girl for their fantastic help, and to Mrs. Clayton-Smith, Mrs. Robitaille, and Miss Williams for popping in to lend a hand. We were incredibly busy, and their extra pairs of hands made all the difference!

Thank you again to all the families who came along and supported our very first sale of the year.



The useful information below is taken from the :
'School Attendance: Information for Parents/Carers'

What can you do to help?

- Establish good bedtime and morning routines.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time. This encourages habits of punctuality and lessens any possible classroom disruption. If your child arrives after the attendance register has closed without a good reason, this will be recorded as an 'unauthorised' absence for that session.
- All absences must be reported to the school office for each day of absence (your child's school will have an Attendance Policy explaining the school's expectations and procedures).
- If you know or think that your child is having difficulties attending school, you should contact the school. It is better to speak to them sooner rather than later, as most problems can be dealt with very quickly.
- *Always ask for help from the school to support you and your child's attendance.*

Authorised and Unauthorised Absence

Schools can only authorise absences for a limited range of exceptional circumstances. These are typically absences that are completely unavoidable. Absences that will not be agreed might include:

- Arrival after registers have closed.
- Absences that are not properly explained by parents or child.
- Day trips and Term Time Leave
- Leaving the school without school's authorisation.

Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether to keep your child off school if when they are unwell.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

The Law

By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16 yrs.) must receive a suitable, full-time education suitable for the age and ability of the young person.

Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child receives an education suitable to his/her age, ability and aptitude and any special needs. Most parents fulfill this obligation by registering their child in a school.

Compulsory school age:

From: 1 September, 1 January, 1 April following the child's fifth birthday
To: the last Friday in June in the school year in which the child is sixteen (1 September to 31 August)

Receiving a good **full-time education** will give your child the best possible start in life and best possible outcomes.

Attending school regularly and punctually is essential if children are to make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Government research suggests that 17 missed school days a year = 1 GCSE grade DROP in achievement.

Attendance during one school year

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent number of missed:		
	Days	Weeks	Average lessons
95%	9	2	54
90%	19	4	114
85%	29	6	174