

News from the Federation 17th October 2025

Instagram



Attendance Matters

One of the many important jobs I have as a Headteacher is to closely scrutinise the attendance marks of each child within our school. Looking at absence and monitoring this is one way we safeguard the pupils in our care. Therefore, I wanted to remind everyone again of the importance of attending school and being on time. We expect children to be present for at least 95% of the school year and have the high expectation that children are at school for 97% of the school year. I am writing to families where I have begun to see a dip in attendance and am sharing this information again with the school community to highlight the importance.

Ensuring your child comes to school and being punctual is also part of our home school agreement which all families that been reminded of in our meet the teacher sessions earlier in this term. If you wish to re-read it, please follow the link: [Home School agreement 25 - 26 FAW](#)

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.

Dates and Events

These can be found on our website using the link:
<https://www.trumpingtonfederation.co.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=133>

Term Dates:

Tuesday 21st October, Fitzwilliam Class to Clay Farm

Wednesday 22nd October, 3:10pm, Year 5 Cake Sale

Thursday 23rd October, 3:10pm, Year 3 hot chocolate sale.

24th October, last day of half term (24th-31st Oct half term break)

Monday 27th October - Monday 3rd November, HALF TERM

Friday 31st October, deadline for secondary school admissions

3rd November, welcome back to school for the start of the second half of the autumn term

Friday 7th November (time TBC), OPAL stay and play

Friday 7th November, Trumpington Federation School disco @ Trumpington Meadows: Year 1 and 2, 4 - 5pm; Years 3 - 6, 5:50 - 6:30pm

Wednesday 19th November, Year 4 trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum

Friday 28th November, Year 5 trip to Harry Potter World

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](#)

Term Time Leave

The Government has removed the discretion for head teachers to agree term time leave requests. Due to the disruptive effect on a child's education, you are strongly urged to avoid booking a family holiday during term-time.

Exceptional circumstances have not been dictated by the Government. Individual head teachers will make the final decision to authorise the leave

of absence based on information provided and the absence cannot be authorised retrospectively. The need or desire for recreation downtime is not considered exceptional.

Unauthorised leave of absence could result in a Penalty Notice fine being issued.

Local Authority Education Attendance Service

It is the responsibility of the school to have their own arrangements in place to manage poor attendance by offering appropriate support to parents and children.

It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure regular school attendance.

If your child's attendance is unsatisfactory and failing to improve despite support from the school, the school will make a referral to the Local Authority.

Should it be considered that as a parent you are unwilling to ensure your child attends school regularly without good reason, you could be:

- parents may be subject to a Penalty fine of £160 (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days). Non-payment of this fine will result in case being listed for prosecution in the Magistrate Court, without further warning being issued.
- prosecuted in a Magistrates Court and fined up to £2,500 and/or imprisoned for up to 3 months in accordance with the Education Act 1996 Section 444.
- made the subject of a Parenting Order.
- your child may be made the subject of an Education Supervision Order in the Family Court.

Useful links:

[School attendance | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

[DfE external document template](#)

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
80%	38	8	228
75%	48	10	288
70%	57	11.5	342
65%	67	13.5	402

Year 3 trip to Wandlebury:

On Thursday, Year 3 visited the Iron Age hillfort at Wandlebury for a fun-filled day of outdoor learning and discovery. The children took a tour of the ancient hillfort and learned about the fascinating archaeological evidence found at the site. They took part in a range of hands-on activities, including threshing and grinding grain, cooking bread over an open fire, and weaving mini wattle walls. One of the highlights was trying out slingshots and stick bows and arrows – a big hit with everyone! It was a fantastic day that brought history to life in an exciting and memorable way.



Year 5 Food Waste Workshop:

Year 5 had a fabulous day, on Wednesday, learning about how to use up and recycle our food waste. Jonathan and Chef Rowen, from the council Waste Management Education Team, came and talked to us about how much food is wasted in the world every year (astonishingly it is enough to feed every food deprived person SEVEN meals every day for a year). The highlight was definitely baking Pumpkin and Apple Cakes with soft cheese frosting. They were delicious and so easy to make. Did you know that 4/10 adults don't even know that pumpkins are edible. We knew and thoroughly enjoyed eating our cakes. We all took a copy of the recipe home with us, so might even make them for our Cake Sale on Wednesday 22nd October.



HALLOWEEN CAKE SALE

Wednesday 22nd October 3.10pm
Join us for spooky treats!

Get ready for a **spooktacular** afternoon in the school playground!
On Wednesday, 22 October 2025, Year Five invite you to our Halloween-themed cake sale to raise money for the PTA.

All are welcome to join in the fun!

CASH ONLY

FAWCETT
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wednesday 22 October, Year 5 Halloween Cake Sale:

Year 5 are looking forward to holding their first cake sale after school on Wednesday. All baked goods will be £1 so please do bring your cash!

Friday 7th November, Trumpington Federation School Disco:

THE TRUMPINGTON
FEDERATION PTA
PRESENTS

TRUMPINGTON FEDERATION SCHOOL DISCO

TRUMPINGTON MEADOWS SCHOOL HALL

FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2025

TICKETS £3.50
THIS DISCO IS OPEN TO BOTH SCHOOLS

4 - 5 PM	5.30-6.30PM
YEAR 1 & 2	YEAR 3, 4, 5 & 6
KEY STAGE 1 LINK	KEY STAGE 2 LINK

TICKETS ON SALE NOW VIA THE LINK