

18th September 2023

Parent Update Letter

Dear parent/ guardian,

As we are now in our third week of the autumn term, there are just a few issues to request your support with.

Attendance Matters

It has already been noticeable how many children have been absent from school for various reasons since the start of the new academic year. Regular attendance at school will:

- give your child the best possible start in life
- enable your child to reach their full potential

Many people feel primary education is not as important as secondary school education (which is most certainly not the case) but time missed in primary school sets up bad habits for the future. Good attendance now will help your child to understand what it means to be reliable and this will assist them as they progress through the education system in to the world of work.

Regular attendance means that your child must:

- attend school every day unless there are justified reasons
- arrive at school on time

You should start the habits of regular school attendance at an early age. If your child is reluctant to come to school, contact your child's class teacher and/ or me; we can work together to put things right. It is important that your child understands that you do not approve of them being absent.

Your child must not be kept away from school for reasons such as:

- visiting relatives
- taking long weekends
- shopping trips
- birthday treats

If your child is saying they feel unwell, before you keep them off school, consider whether they have a high temperature (above 38C) or not and whether they have a condition, such as chicken pox, which could be passed on to others. Professor Chris Whitty (Chief Medical Officer for England) has said it is appropriate to send children to school with mild respiratory illnesses, including cold symptoms such as a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat.

If your child is unable to attend school, you must contact school as early as you can; ideally before 9.15am on their first day of absence. When children are missing from school and no reasons have been provided, a home visit may be undertaken as part of our safeguarding procedures. A home visit may also be undertaken if there are concerns with your child's overall attendance, even if reasons have been provided.

When your child returns to school, you may be required to provide whatever medical evidence you have to show your child's absence was due to ill health. It is really unfair to cite ill health as a reason for absence, when a holiday has been taken. This places enormous stress on children. Please follow the correct procedures for requesting leave in term time – even if this means you incur a fixed penalty notice.

Please make routine dental and medical appointments out of school hours so your child's school day is not disrupted.

Dogs

Dogs are not allowed on school grounds – no matter their size or cuteness! Also, please consider that many children may be wary of dogs too; therefore, keep your dogs on a lead, under control and where possible, away from areas around the school grounds where there are higher numbers of children entering or leaving school at the start or end of the school day.

Vaping

Vaping, just like smoking, is not allowed on school premises or school grounds.

Parking

Please park legally and responsibly around school. If possible, park away from the immediate school vicinity and walk; this eases congestion, makes crossing the road by school safer and helps contribute to your child's 60 minutes of activity a day.

If you have a parking concern outside of school, report it online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/parking or call 0800 1952774. School staff have no jurisdiction over parking.

Walking and cycling survey



Everyone is invited to take part in a survey to help shape future plans for cycling and walking in Lancashire.

Lancashire County Council, in partnership with Blackpool Council, want to join up the gaps in our existing network of footpaths and cycle routes and provide safer, direct and more convenient routes.

Following feedback from their initial public engagement last year, the councils have produced a draft network map of cycling and walking networks routes in Lancashire. They need people from all areas of the county to provide feedback on anything you think could be improved, including what would help encourage you to walk and cycle to school. [The survey will be available on their website until 24 October.](#)

Additional design and feasibility work will be needed to take any of the proposed schemes forward.

You can find out more and take part in the survey at <https://lancashire.citizenspace.com/lcwip-engagement-stage-2/>

Concerns

Remember if you have any worries or concerns, big or small, please do not hesitate to contact me to make an appointment or come and chat with me on the yard at the start or end of a school day and I will do my best to help you.

With best wishes,

Mrs Joanne B. Heap
Headteacher

