



Blackhorse Primary School Newsletter

T1 Wk3: 20th September 2024

The Importance of Good Attendance



Regular school attendance is essential for children to not only make progress both academically and socially but also to feel settled, safe and secure. The way the curriculum builds on prior learning in small steps each lesson means it is important that children attend regularly to avoid missing key parts of learning.

Last year our whole school attendance was 95.9% which was above the national and local authority averages. We would like to see that increase this year.

As a parent you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child has a full time education. There will be occasions when your child is unwell and therefore unable to attend school. The NHS offer a [useful guide](#) to help you decide if you should keep your child at home.

It is important that any absence is recorded correctly on Arbor, therefore we ask that parents email the school office with information of planned absence for medical appointments etc. and call the school office to report sickness

Broken weeks, this means 2 or more weeks interrupted by sporadic periods of absence, can have the most impact on a child's learning as they keep missing key points of learning. An attendance rate of less than 90% is equivalent to missing one day a fortnight and is deemed to be persistent absence.

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence, including unauthorised holiday absence, came into effect from 19 August 2024,. The main changes are outlined below:

1. There will be a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice will be issued .
2. The new rules mean you will no longer be able to take your child out of school for one week's holiday without a penalty notice being issued.
3. There will be an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.
4. If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.

We recognise that some pupils may find it harder to attend school than others, if your child is experiencing difficulties please speak to their class teacher in the first instance or ask to speak to Ms Deacon, our SENCO, so we can all work together to build trusting relationships and ensure support is in place.

Term 1 Diary Dates:

Weds 25th Sept: Parent's Forum

Mon 30th Sept: EYFS Intake 2025 Open Morning

Fri 4th Oct: INSET Day: school closed to pupils

Mon 7th Oct 3:45 PGL Information Meeting (current Year 5)

Tues 15th Oct: ESFA Girl's 7-a-side tournament

Thurs 17th Oct: PTA School Disco

Fri 18th Oct: 9:15 Rec & KS1 Achievement Assembly

Mon 21st Oct: PTA AGM

Thurs 24th Oct: ESFA School's 7-a-side tournament

Fri 25th Oct: 9:15 KS2 Achievement Assembly

Fri 25th Oct: Last day of Term 1

Mon 4th Nov: Start of Term 2

Fri 29th Nov: INSET Day: school closed to pupils

Bye for Now

Today we say a fond farewell (for now) to our Assistant Head, Anna Phillips, who is starting a one year secondment as Deputy Head at Staple Hill Primary. Anna has been with us since 2015 as a Newly Qualified Teacher. She has taught in both Key Stages, been KS1 Leader and led English for us. The work she has put into improving reading over the last 4 years and, more recently writing, has been invaluable. She will be an amazing Deputy and Staple Hill are very lucky to have her and grateful to us for letting her go.

We are fortunate at Blackhorse to have so many talented staff and changes have been made to the Leadership structure to maintain the excellent progress we are making with our development plans. Josh Denton-Collins will be our Assistant Head, Kate Urry will take responsibility for all of KS2 and Beth Vigor will be our KS1 Leader with responsibility for Early Reading and Phonics. Laura Jenkins will be our new English lead.

We would also like to pass on our best wishes to Rhea Bone who leaves today to start her maternity leave. We hope she has time to rest and relax before her special bundle of joy arrives. Next week we will introduce Anna and Rhea's replacement, Rhianna Doulton who is settling in as Chestnut teacher so well.

This week's Champions!

Each week, the staff nominate one child per class who has been a model pupil, demonstrating the values which we look for in Champion Learners! This week we have been focussing on the school value of Pride. This week our nominees are:

Year	Nominees
Resource Base	Llewelyn & Lili
Reception	Flossy & Corinne
Year 1	Harvey & Roxanne
Year 2	Noah & Savona
Year 3	Corey & Harley
Year 4	Sebby & Ayah
Year 5	Eloise & Doga
Year 6	Ella & Riley

This week's Champion...



Pride is our focus this week and Eloise in Poplar has been chosen as our Champion. Miss Mellish writes; Eloise is an incredibly deserving champion this week and every week. There is never a time where she is *not* being a role model for others in the class as she conducts herself in a way that is ready, respectful and safe at all times. She has started year 5 with a true sense of pride, bravery and purpose and has left a positive impression on all staff and visitors who have helped Poplar class this week. As well as this, she has wowed us with her beautiful writing which consisted of an abundance of skills and impeccable presentation. Well done, Eloise!

Join the Team

We are currently looking for an enthusiastic and friendly individual to join our Lunchbreak Supervisor team to work with our amazing children over lunchtimes. This involves making them feel safe and valued both in the hall when they are eating and in the playground when they get to play with their friends. If this is you then follow this [link or pop into the of-](#)

Attendance Champions this week: Year R 97.4%

