

Dear families,

I hope you have enjoyed the holidays and the first week back to school has gone well. On behalf of all the staff, may I wish you all a happy new year.

New Year resolutions

In the academy this week, we have discussed new year resolutions and how this term can be a great time to set new targets and strive to improve ourselves in areas to benefit school or home life. After a couple of weeks, this effort can become a habit which is then easier to sustain. Homework can be a difficult habit to develop but now, at the start of a new year, is a great time to get back in the swing of it. I can not stress the significant benefits for your child of the daily reading, multiplication tables and spelling homework to support what we do in school. Setting a time to do this each day, like straight after school, will help with the routine. If you need any support with this please contact us..

Booster sessions

Numerous invite letters have gone out last week for a range of free tuition to help support pupils. These sessions are to support your child to meet their academic targets. Please support the sessions but if you have any concerns as always please contact us.

Y4 Multiplication check

Please see a publication from the Department for Education regarding the Y4 multiplication check which takes place. In June this year. [Information for parents: 2024 multiplication tables check - GOV.UK](#)

Car Park

The Queensway entrance is extremely busy at the start and the end of the day. If you do need to drive to school, please drop your child/children off at the Cemetery Road entrance. **Please only use the car park for drop off and collections if you have a blue badge or have prior approval from school.** If you feel it is necessary to use the Queensway entrance and you haven't done so already, please contact me so that we can discuss.

Communications home - Xpressions App and Email

If you still haven't set up the Xpressions App so that you receive communications from school more easily, then please do so. We will continue to send communications via email and the Xpressions App. If you need any assistance setting up the APP, please pop into the school reception and we will assist. Here is the original letter with how to set up [LETTER](#)

Blue Peter Book Badge

In assembly this week, Mrs Kirman launched the 'Blue Peter Book Badge'. This is a great way to showcase your child's love of reading by getting them to complete a book review and associated drawing. Children can complete either the online application or the paper copy (ask your child to get one from school). If you are completing the paper copy, you can bring these back into school and we will post them off for you. Happy reading and reviewing!

Attendance

When children attend school, not only is it better for them academically but also socially. Keeping attendance as high as possible ensures that they feel like part of the school community. Everyday matters. Please see the graphic below which identifies what we are aiming for.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr S Tait,
Principal

Attendance Matters

100%
PERFECTION

96%+
VERY GOOD

At this level, you give yourself the best chance of achieving your potential. 96% equals 7.5 days absence in a year.

93% - 95.9%
COULD BE BETTER

95% means a half-day missed every 2 weeks.
In a year, that's 43 lessons to catch up on.

90.1% - 92.9%
IMPROVEMENT REQUIRED

92% equals 3 weeks of lost learning every year.
Between Y7 and Y11, this means 15 weeks lost in total.

90% and below
PERSISTENTLY ABSENT

At 90%, you have missed almost 100 lessons in a year.
Attendance at 90% each year means that by Y11, you will have missed out on 6 months learning.