

We are now over halfway through the term, and what a busy few weeks it has been! The children have been working incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum and continue to make us proud every day. Their enthusiasm and dedication to their learning is wonderful to see.

Uniform

As we move through the term, we'd like to remind all parents and carers to please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name. This helps us enormously in returning any lost items to their rightful owners.

Please also remember that children should wear black school shoes/boots or plain black trainers only. For jewellery, children may wear **one pair of small stud earrings**. Hoop earrings, including sleeper hoops, bracelets, and necklaces should not be worn to school.

Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome Skye Nuttall to our school as our new Education Welfare Officer. Skye will be working closely with our school community to support children and families with attendance and punctuality.

As our Education Welfare Officer, Skye will:

- Monitor and support attendance – Working with families to identify and overcome any barriers preventing children from attending school regularly
- Provide early intervention – Offering practical support and guidance when attendance concerns first emerge
- Work in partnership with families – Meeting with parents and carers to discuss attendance patterns and develop solutions together
- Carrying out home visits when children are absent from school.
- Track attendance data – Identifying patterns and trends to ensure we can provide timely, targeted support

Skye is here to help, not to judge. If your child is experiencing difficulties with attendance, please don't hesitate to reach out. Early conversations often lead to the best outcomes for children and families.

Term-time Holidays

We wanted to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers about term-time absence and holidays during the school term. We understand that family time is precious, but we would like to remind you that we cannot authorise term-time holidays. When parents take unauthorised term-time holidays, this may result in a penalty notice being issued.

The national threshold for issuing a penalty notice is 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. The penalty is:

- **£80 if paid within 21 days** of receipt
- **£160 if paid after 21 days, but within 28 days**

For a second penalty notice within 3 years, issued to the same parent in respect of the same child, the fine is £160.

Parents can only receive a maximum of 2 penalty notices within a 3-year period for the same child. If a third penalty notice would not be appropriate, alternative action such as prosecution must be considered instead.

It is important to understand that these rules are not set by our school. Schools are required to follow the Department for Education's statutory guidance 'Working together to improve school attendance', and we have a legal duty to apply these rules consistently and fairly to all families.

We understand that holiday costs can be significantly cheaper outside of school holidays, but we must follow the statutory guidance. We really appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and punctually.

If you believe you have exceptional circumstances that require your child to be absent from school, please contact the school office to discuss this before making any bookings or arrangements.

Key Dates for Your Diary

Here are some important dates to be aware of this term:

WC 9th February - Safety Week

Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 11th February – Year 5&6 Trip to National Space Centre Leicester

Friday 13th February – last day of half term 3

Monday 23rd February – first day of half term 4

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day – School Book Fair Scholastic Books

Friday 20th March – INSET Day

24th /26th March - Parents' Evening

Friday 27th March - school finishes for Easter break

If you have any queries, please come in and speak to us. Thank you for your continued support!