



Dear parents & carers,

As we begin a new school term, let me wish you a very Happy New Year on behalf of everyone in school. I trust that you had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and that you're ready to go for a new term. This coming term is always very significant in terms of the work and learning in school – as teachers, we always feel that these next few months are extremely significant in helping children make progress and achieve.

Attendance

This year we want to make a particular effort to secure and improve our school attendance levels and punctuality. Now, clearly, the last few years have seen higher levels of sickness and school absence than would be normal; this is completely understandable. But, as we continue to help school get back to normal, we will be making an extra effort to ensure that our pupils get the best chance to make progress, by being here in school as much as possible and by being here on time.

To this end, you will hear us talking about attendance and punctuality more in the coming months, both to you as parents and carers but also to the children. We understand that getting children out of the door in the morning, on time, to get to school can be challenging and we will be encouraging our pupils to be helpful with that at home. We will be updating our school attendance policy, which we will be seeking your opinion of and consultation upon and we will, as always, be available to provide support and help in order that we ensure that children are in school as much as possible and on time.

Our refreshed policy will provide more detail but as we finalise this, please note the following:

- Children who are unwell, should remain at home until they are fit to return to school. Guidance can be found here: <https://www.westwindsprimary.co.uk/parent-area/>
- If your child is unable to attend school, please provide a reason for their absence to the school office or direct to their class teacher. This can be a note when the child returns, a phone call/ email or message through the SeeSaw App.
- Breakfast Club is available for all P1-P7 children from 8.15am – costing £1 per day, including breakfast
- School doors open for children at 8.45am. Children should be in school by 9.00am, when the school doors will close. This is the start of the school day - lessons and activities will start promptly.





- We understand that there is more pressure on getting medical and dental appointments than has been the case previously. Please, as much as is possible, try to make these for outside of school times.

In school we talk to the children about being successful, about achieving their potential and becoming West Winds Winners. Clearly, good attendance at school is key to making this happen.

School Uniform

The start of term is also a good time for a reminder about school uniform. Information about school uniform can be found here: www.westwindsprimary.co.uk/parent-area/school-uniform/. We believe that it is important for children to take pride in being part of West Winds Primary School – and part of that is in making sure that they are wearing the correct uniform, are well turned out and are ready for the school day. Information has already come from your class teacher about specific arrangements on PE/ Outdoor learning days.

Cost of living support

As previously mentioned, because of your and the community's generous food donations in the Autumn term, we have established an emergency food support service. You will find a white shelving unit with boxes in the school porch. Please feel free to lift the food that is packed in bags in these boxes – you don't need to ask anyone, please just take as you require.

Clearly, the last few years of the pandemic caused a significant amount of disruption to school life and to our pupils and families. As we continue to emerge from this, we want to re-establish good habits around attendance, punctuality and uniform so that we give our children the best opportunities to succeed and support them to meet their full potential, both now and later in life.

Do let us know if there is anything we can do to support you.

Thanks

Mr Manogue

