

Headline:

As you know we are very keen to promote good attendance at school and have robust policies, systems and structures to monitor and support this. The children are also keen to raise our attendance rates and they are quite competitive when it comes to achieving the highest attendance figures each week!

If your child is absent from school, please let us know. If you forget to call, we will contact you to find out the reason for your child's absence. This is to help us check that your child is safe and also decide what type of absence to record. If you do not provide us with the information requested, the absence will automatically be registered as unauthorised, which will go on your child's record. If your child is feeling under the weather please remember we are always happy to monitor a child who is feeling poorly and keep you updated during the day, and will ask you to collect them if necessary.

If at all possible please arrange medical appointments for holidays or after school, and remember if you have to take your child to an appointment bring them to school first and they will receive their attendance mark for that session.

The following reasons are examples of the kinds of absence that will not be authorised:

- Absence of siblings if one child is ill
- Oversleeping
- Inadequate clothing/uniform
- Confusion over school dates
- Medical/dental appointments of more than half a day without very good reasons
- Child's birthday
- Shopping trip.

If your child struggles with their

attendance we will refer you to the local authority Attendance Advisory Practitioner (AAP). The 'AAP' officer will call on you to discuss your situation, and offer support. They may also ask you to provide medical evidence (such as a doctor's appointment card, a prescription or evidence of medication) to confirm your child's illness. The AAP can also issue court warning letters and fixed penalty notices as they see fit. We work closely with the Local Authority around raising attendance in school and rarely authorise holidays during term time. Family holidays over 5 days will automatically trigger a fixed penalty notice (a fine) issued by Medway Council.

In addition from September 2017, in conjunction with Medway Council Attendance Advisory Service for School and Academies (AASSA) will monitor your child's attendance. In the event that your child incurs ten sessions (five days) of unauthorised absence in a six school week period a referral will be made to AASSA and a Penalty Notice will be issued to each parent/carer. This is a £60 fine, increasing to £120 if not paid within 21 days. Failure to pay the fine will result in a court prosecution for your child's non-school attendance.

Please encourage your child to attend school every day – last year our whole school attendance was 95.8%, which is in-line with national figures but we want to be better than average! Our children want to aim for over 96% attendance for the whole year so please help them achieve this. To help monitor our progress towards this target we publish some attendance figures each week for your information in the newsletter.

Timekeeping every minute really does count. School mornings can be hectic.

Coming Soon

Parent Consultation Appointments confirmed
Friday 6th October

Grandparents Event
Tuesday 10th October, 3pm

School Nurse Drop in Session
Wednesday 11th October 9.15am – 12.15pm

FS2 Parents invited to visit the classrooms
Tuesday 17th October, 2.55pm to 3.20pm

Parents Consultation Evenings
Tuesday 17th October and Thursday 19th October, 3.30pm – 7pm

Blue Tag Day
Friday 20th October

Photographs
Wednesday 1st November

Tag Day
Friday 3rd November

Friday Club Option Forms for T3 & 4 go home
Friday 3rd November

Term Dates 2017/18

Term 1
Tuesday 5th September 2017
until
Friday 20th October 2017

Term 2
Tuesday 31st October 2017
until
Tuesday 19th December 2017

Term 3
Monday 8th January 2018
until
Friday 9th February 2018

Term 4
Monday 19th February 2018
until
Thursday 29th March 2018

Term 5
Monday 16th April 2018
until
Friday 25th May 2018

Term 6
Tuesday 5th June 2018
until
Wednesday 25th July 2018

Uniform

A navy blue jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan.
Navy, black or grey trousers, tailored shorts, skirt or dress/navy and white checked dress. A white or blue polo shirt, shirt or blouse. Flat plain black shoes or trainers (no heels or open toes).
www.tesco.com/ues



When your child is late for school this means that they are losing out on vital parts of their education. Being as little as five minutes late each day is the equivalent of missing three full days of school in one year. Just 15 minutes late each day is the same as 10 days over the school year.

Remember: LOST MINUTES = LOST LEARNING!

Mr Carthy
Head Teacher

News

Easyfundraising - Feel Good Shopping

You have raised £722.31 for school funds by shopping via Easyfundraising.

Register to support Byron Primary school at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/byron-primary/> then simply follow the steps to shop and raise. Happy fund raising!

Foundation Stage End of First Term Open session for Parents

On Tuesday 17th October, between 3pm and 3.20pm, parents of Year R children are invited into school to visit the classrooms and share favourite stories.

Space is limited in live classrooms therefore we request a maximum of two persons per child to arrive at 2.55pm to sign in.

Grand Parent Event

Following its success last year, we are inviting grandparents to visit their grandchildren in school from 3pm on Tuesday 10th October.

Any grandparents interested should come to the main office via the Byron Road entrance. From here you will be escorted to your grandchild's classroom.

School Nurse Drop-in Session

On Wednesday 11th October parents who wish to have a conversation with the School Nurse about any health issues affecting their child are invited to make an appointment – just give the School Office a call.

Reminders

Pound Coins

The 'old' style pound coins will no longer be legal tender after Friday 15th October. Due to banking schedules we will only be able to accept them in school up until MONDAY 9th OCTOBER.

Health & Wellbeing

Kids Need Water!

It fends off dehydration, helps regulate weight, and even prevents cavities. Your kids probably drink plenty of juice and milk each day. But don't forget about water. Although it has no nutrients, H₂O is essential to your child's health. Water aids digestion, helps prevent constipation, and is vital for proper blood circulation. It also helps transport nutrients and oxygen to cells, cushions joints and protects organs and tissues, helps regulate body temperature, and maintains electrolyte (sodium) balance. Children need the same amount of water as adults: about one quart for every 1,000 calories they expend.

In The Community

Save a Life – Give Blood

To make an appointment please call 0300 123 23 23. Sessions will be held on Monday 23rd October between 1.30pm and 4.30pm, then 5.30pm and 8pm at The King Charles Hotel, Main Hall, Brompton Road, Gillingham.

Safeguarding Awareness Week - Monday 9th October to Friday 13th October

"Safeguarding is everybody's business" is the message to everyone in Medway. The aim of this week is to raise awareness of adult abuse and inform people of how to identify and report abuse. Professionals and the public are encouraged to attend a range of activities across Medway. Sadly some adults are mistreated – often at the hands of people they love and trust. By taking responsibility and reporting abuse, you can help yourself and others. For full details visit medway.gov.uk/abuseawareness

Pat on the Back

The class with the best attendance for last week was FS2F with a 99.1%. FS2F, FS2M and 5/6A had only one late pupil each and 98.5% of children arrived on time.

Inclusions this week

- Parent Consultation Appointments
- MTSA Recruitment Letter
- Arriva Day Tickets Flyer

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, achieving equal opportunities and combating discrimination

Head Teacher: Mr Carthy

Deputy Heads: Mrs Langthorne (4-7 year olds) and Mr Chantler (7-11 year olds)

Family Liaison Officer: Mrs Vella

Inclusion Manager: Mrs Hill

This school operates a very clear whistleblowing policy for staff