



Information Bulletin

Term 2 into Term 3

Diary dates:

Term 2

January 2nd – School INSET day – EAL training for staff
 January 3rd & 10th – Foundation Stage Reception New Parent Tours
 January 8th – Creative Days Traditional Tales Story Telling Activity session with Year 1 children.
 January 15th – Dodgeball Competition (Year 5/6)
 January 26th – PTA Event (Beginners Ball)
 January 26th – Music concert for KS1 and 2
 January 30th – Roman Soldier visiting the school (Year 3)
 February 1st – Key stage 2 Open doors (Myrtle)
 February 2nd – Key Stage 1 Open doors (Merrywood)
 February 7th – Year 2 Roald Dahl character day (Dress up as your favourite Roald Dahl character for the day)
 February 8th – Year 2 Dance Festival at Ashton Park
 February 9th – Non uniform Day and End of Term

Attendance information for the school:

Our whole school attendance target is 96.4%

Current attendance figure for the whole school is **96.2%** This is currently lower than our whole school target so we are looking into ways to improve this figure over the coming terms but your support is invaluable to everyone achieving the best outcomes for each and every child.

Please note:

- Attendance under **93%**; Parents / Carers will be contacted by the school and their child's attendance will be monitored.
- Attendance under **90%**; Parents / Carers will be contacted again by the school and their child's attendance will be closely monitored.
- Attendance under **88%**; Parents / Carers will have an appointment made with the Education Welfare Officer (EWO)

The EWO also monitors and meets with Parents / Carers regarding punctuality in the mornings so please ensure children arrive punctually. If you are late please take the children to the school office where they can get access into school building.

Our first Education Welfare Officer visit will take place in term 3. Within this meeting identified families will be contacted to attend and Attendance surgery in term 4. Paperwork e.g. medical certificates will be required as proof of illness when attending the term 4 meeting.

Terms 1 and 2 attendance information:

Year group	Class	Attendance percentage
Foundation Stage - Reception	Jellyfish	94.2
Foundation Stage - Reception	Octopus	94.2
Foundation Stage - Reception	Starfish	98.3
Year 1	Bear	93.0

Year 1	Badger	97.2
Year 1	Butterfly	93.6
Year 2	Flamingo	95.0
Year 2	Fox	96.2
Year 2	Falcon	95.9
Year 3	Hedgehog	96.9
Year 3	Heron	96.7
Year 3	Honey bee	94.5
Year 4	Koala	98.5
Year 5	Leopard	98.0
Year 5	Lion	97.2
Year 6	Pelican	97.9

Percentage of children who are currently at 100% attendance is 24.2%

Leave of Absence forms

If you wish to take your child out of school during term time you **must** fill out a Leave of Absence form, these can be collected from either school office. This will then be looked at by the Chair of Governors. Attendance figures and holiday circumstances will be looked at resulting in feedback being provided.

Please note: Authorised absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances

Reporting illness

Please can we remind all Parents / Carers to report your child's illness using the school **telephone system** or **email**.

First day absence: If you fail to report your child as ill then the school will call you before 10.00am to find out where your child is. If we fail to make contact with you during this phone call we will follow this up with a text or an email using our up to date contact details. Please can you get in touch with the school as quickly as possible to ensure we all know that your child is safe.

Medical information:

- *Sickness*: Children should not be in school until 48 hours after their last episode.
- *Diahorrea*: Children should not be in school until 48 hours after their last episode.

School Safeguarding:

Visiting both the School sites

It is vital that all visitors to the school sites **report** to the **school office** outside of the normal gate opening times. All visitors coming in to the school will be issued with a **visitors badge** and a **safeguarding leaflet**.

Merrywood and Myrtle

Please can all Parents / Carers refrain from talking to the children through the fences during playtime and lunchtime. We understand this is difficult however there are safeguarding reasons for not encouraging conversations through the fence lines.

Myrtle

The current drop off and pick up situation will remain in place for the near future as the main school gates are still not working properly

Merrywood:

If you wish to gain entry to the playground during playtimes / lunchtimes

please make a member of staff, who is patrolling the playground, aware of your presence. The office staff **will not** provide you access through the gate. This is to ensure all children can play safely during their playtimes when the gates are open.

Milford Street entrance and the road

Please can all Parents / Carers ensure they are in charge of their children when exiting the school gate. We continue to work on a solution to create a physical barrier between the road and the school gates. I would also ask all Parents and Carers to avoid, where possible, driving up this road during drop off and pick up times. We will then minimise the risk to our children's and their siblings' safety.

Myrtle Street – Dangerous parking

Thank you to all those Parents / Carers who have found alternative parking bays on North Street rather than stopping within Myrtle Street. We still have a number of cars however that are parking illegally and dangerously either on double yellow lines, zig zag lines or on the pavement. The school met with our local police officers and we will now be working proactively to ensure that the children and other members of public can cross safely. Thank you again to those Parents / Carers who have made alternative arrangements, it has been noted

Pre-School

Please note on Wednesday afternoons the **Milford Street** entrance is open and staffed until 13.00. The gate automatically opens at 12.45 and closes at 13.00. Please use this entrance within these times instead of the **Stackpool Road** entrance as it is **safer** for Year 1 and 2 children who are out playing.

Both sites

Picking your child up before the end of the school day:

Please can all Parents / Carers report to the school offices where your child will be delivered to you and be signed out formally according to Fire Regulation protocol.

Internet and Computer safety

As part of our computing curriculum the children have been focussing on 'staying safe online' within their computing lessons this term. We have covered topics such as: Cyberbullying, 'Chat' conversations within games and general safety messages.

We know that some older children are using social media sites even though they are not 13 years old yet. We would like parents and carers to know that over the last few years we have had to deal with issues arising from social media, which have caused upset to both children and their parents as well as damage to children's mental health and well-being and absence from school. We strongly advise that rules for using these sites are followed.

Top Tips for children!

- **Always ask a grown up** before you use the internet. They can help you find the best thing to do.
- **Don't tell strangers** where you live, your phone number or where you go to school. Only your friends and family need to know that.
- **Don't send pictures** to people you don't know. You don't want strangers looking at photos of you, your friends or your family.

- **Tell a grown up** if you feel scared or unhappy about anything.

You can also call '**Childline**' on: **08001111** to talk to someone who can help.

Catering and Special diets and allergies

The school have now taken the catering 'in house' and are preparing the children's meals using the Merrywood and Myrtle Street kitchens. There is a new menu for Term 3.

Please see our newly designed school food logo



The school recognises that some pupils may require special diets that do not follow the National Food Standards exactly. In this case Parents / Carers are asked to inform the school and if you are providing your child with their own packed lunch to ensure it is as healthy as possible.

Due to the growing number of children with severe allergies in school; the children **are not** permitted to share food and we ask all Parents / Carers to **not** include any **nut or sesame based products** in their lunches e.g. *peanut butter, Nutella, Hummus*

Allergen alerts:

Currently within the school we have children with allergies, and at risk of **anaphylaxis** (possible death), to;

- Nuts (all varieties)
- Sesame (Tahini)
- Raw egg

Please note: there are some *common foods* we need to be aware of due to their ingredients:

- Hummus – tahini (Sesame)
- Pesto – pine nuts

Allergen information will be posted in any outward facing classroom windows informing you of any children at risk within your child's class.

Parent / Carer information and opportunities

School Charity of the Year

Last year the school raised money for MacMillan Cancer Support due to the support a member of our staff received during her final weeks before sadly passing away. Last year we raised a fantastic £913.65.

This year we will be supporting 'The Rainbow Centre for Children' based in Knowle, Bristol. The Rainbow Centre provides a haven of peace for children

	<p>and their families suffering from the effects of a life threatening illness or death in the family. The website for the charity is https://rainbowcentre.org.uk/about/</p> <p>I will be making contact with a representative to come in and talk to the children about the charity and what the money we raise through our Non-uniform days will be used for.</p> <p>Reading volunteers If you, or grandparents, have any spare time and wish to listen to some children read in school please contact Mrs Mathias (Family Liaison) through the school offices.</p> <p>Cleaning staff The school are looking for cleaning staff to work 16.00 – 18.00 daily on either the Myrtle or Merrywood site. If you are interested please contact the school office and David Thomas (Site manager) will get back to you.</p>
Lost Property	<p>Please can all Parents / Carers name all items of clothing that come in to school. At the end of each day everything left on the school floors is either sorted using the names or placed in the lost property bin in the front playgrounds.</p> <p>All lost property boxes will be cleared at the end of each term with the contents being donated to a local charity.</p>
Governing Body information	<p>The Governing Body are currently working extremely hard on the initial stages of preparing to recruit a Head teacher for September 2018.</p>
Thanks	<p>Thank you to all the PTA members who continue to give up their time to run fund raising activities from which all our children benefit. A fantastic quiz (again!) and a fabulously festive Christmas Fayre</p> <p>Well done to all those Parents / Carers who continue to record in their child's reading record about how reading is going at home. If you have any time and wish to offer yourself as a reading parent / grandparent then please contact Mrs Mathias through either school office.</p> <p>Thank you to everyone for their support during term 2. There was a lot packed in to it. All our Winter performances and Carol Concerts, The Etherington Brothers 'Learning through Laughter', Sporting events – Athletics, Music concert, Lantern Parade, Anti-Bullying week in association with Unique Voice, Reception Community Elderly Project,</p>