

Head Teacher's Newsletter



@MrGarley

Irthlingborough Junior School

Date: 2nd November 2018

Year 5

It has been good to welcome Mrs Dollard and Mrs Moore back to class this week. Mrs Moore returned just before half term and Mrs Dollard's return means the Year 5 team is back together. We have strengthened that team by employing another Learning Support Assistant who will go into year 3 which allows Mrs Ward to support Year 5. Mrs Devlin has been successful in her application to be an HLTA in Year 5 which means we now have a replacement for Mrs Marshall who left us at the end of the last academic year.

There is even better news for Year 5 this week because Mrs Frost has joined them for their maths and English sessions. This gives us the opportunity to create smaller groups for maths, reading and writing. There may be some fluidity to these groups and they may change as children close gaps in their learning and make faster progress.

When teachers are away through ill health for longer periods we are committed to replacing them with fully qualified primary trained teachers.

Attendance

Attendance matters. We need you as parents to support us in ensuring your children are in school when they are well enough to be here. Our baseline target for attendance is 96%. We will contact you if your child's attendance falls below 96%. It becomes a serious cause for concern if your child's attendance falls below 93%.

What does 90% attendance look like? We measure attendance in sessions with one day being formed by two sessions (a morning and an afternoon session) which means that a week is ten sessions of attendance. If your child has an attendance of 90% it means that they will miss half a day of learning every week.

One school year at 90% attendance = 4 weeks of learning missed.

One of the key issues we face are term time holidays. Unless there is a reason (educational or family emergency) we will not authorize children being out of school. If a holiday is taken, we will make a referral to the local authority and this may result in you being fined.

We are working with a consultancy company called TEAM EWS who will work with families whose children do fall into a cause for concern bracket. They work with us for one day a week with Mrs Jones who is our Attendance Officer. Mrs Jones makes daily phone calls as a safeguarding measure to check on the welfare of children who are absent from school. Please phone her in the school office to report your child's absence for every day they are absent.

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Attendance today...

This is what attendance currently looks like at Irthlingborough Junior School:

Year Group	Ave % Attendance This Year
Year 3	96.9%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	94.5%
Year 6	95.9%

Class	Ave % Attendance This Year
3NM	97.6%
3YS	97.2%
3MW	96.9%
3EW	95.9%
4CP	97.1%
4JC	96.9%
4TM	96.9%
4HG	97%
5TW	91.4%
5GD	96.7%
5BR	94.1%
5MM	96.1%
6ED	96.9%
6SU	94%
6BL	97%
6ET	95.7%

Punctuality is also important. We close our registers at 9:30am. If your child arrives after this time they are recorded on the register as being absent from school. We welcome children into school at 8:45am. Even though we don't start teaching until 9:00am, class teachers have prepared warm up activities or follow up tasks from the previous day's work. It is crucial that children get a good start to the school day and that they are on time and ready to learn.

Official government information regarding attendance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

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School Development Plan – Your input is important to us

Thank you to those parents who attended our evening last week to look at the school development plan. Parents had the opportunity to hear about the main priorities we have set this year as a school and then had the chance to share their ideas for development.

I will send out a separate Head Teacher's newsletter with the ideas that were shared on the evening.

Thank you to Mrs Brennan, Mrs Kaplan, Mrs Gibbard, Mrs Ferdinando and Miss Redding for attending.

Safeguarding – Lock Down

Attached to this newsletter is information regarding a school lock down procedure. We have put this in place in case of incidents on the school site that might endanger children. We will be practicing the procedure on the 16th November. The key objective is to make sure it works without alarming the children. It is the opposite of a fire drill where children are used to, and well-practised in, evacuating on to the playground. In the event of a need to lock down the school we will practice children returning to the classroom, securing doors and remaining calm until the all-clear has been sounded.

Please reassure your children that this is nothing to be worried about. The process is designed to be used if we are alerted by the police of an incident whereby it is not safe for children to leave the school site.

Reading

Thank you to all those parents who took part in the tweeting of 'Reading Buddy' pictures over the half term holiday. Don't stop! Please keep up the encouragement and share with us pictures of reading with pets and cousins and grandparents etc.

We're also encouraging children to write a review of books. Details can be found on our reading blog here:

<https://mybiblioteca.blog/>

Keep reading and sharing your adventures in books!