



Newsletter

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23rd May 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

We have made it to the half term and now only have a few remaining weeks before the summer break!

Although there will only be 7 weeks to the end of this academic year, please be advised, they will be very busy - some of our younger children have events outside of school planned, our Year 6 children will be attending transition events with their new schools, and we have sports day and open evening to show off our learning and sporty skills.

We will be having a day in school where children will be moving up to meet their new teacher and they will be in the classroom for the next academic year. This is planned for the end of June and we will keep the children informed of how this will work and what their session will look like.

Attendance & Absence

You may be aware from the recent coverage, the Department for Education are launching a new national attendance framework, which will come into effect from the 18th August and therefore will be in place ready for our return to school in September.

We have a new draft Attendance Policy to support these changes, which is ready to be discussed by the Governors at their next meeting so that we can share this information as soon as possible, once agreed.

We can advise that the main changes to our school will mean that there is an increase of the number of unauthorised sessions, from 6 to 10, before a Penalty Notice will be issued. However, please note that we strongly encourage that holidays - for however many days - are taken outside of the school term.

This week, we have seen a huge increase in the number of leave of absence requests coming into school and the knock on effect in the classroom - for instance in one class in particular there are 5 children missing out of 27 and we have had 15 children absent due to holiday during term time across the school today.

A school day moves quickly - we have a quick recap of the lesson learnt the previous day then move on to the next stage of the learning. By missing 5 school days, and with maths and English being taught each day, this can mean that a big gap can be left in a child's knowledge in a particular area. Learning missed due to unauthorised absence is difficult to make up, we are unable to have a member of staff away from the classroom to catch the child up for this reason and work will not be set for children to take on holiday when the absence has been unauthorised.

Our school deems good attendance as a firm foundation to our learning and social skills. It sets a good routine in place and helps - although it may seem so far off - with a continuation of and expectation of good attendance for high school. We are very aware that children who struggle with attendance at primary school can go on to become school avoiders at high school and the associated difficulties that this has when it comes to choices for exam subjects.

We are aware that for a few members of our school community, there may be periods of absence due to medical reasons - physical or mental health and our school staff will always work with the families and, where necessary external agencies, to support every child and their individual needs.

However, we are also aware of an increasing number of holiday absences being advised as illness for the child. This makes it very difficult for them as it is natural for the child to want to come in and tell us about an amazing experience/holiday that they may have had but have been asked to not tell anyone or 'remember that you have been unwell' on their return to school. We are not trying to catch anyone out, but have genuine concern that a child has recovered from an illness that has lasted over several days and when asked "are you

feeling better?" it can make the child feel very awkward and embarrassed when they are not sure how to answer - many children have strong relationships with their grown-ups at school and do not like being unable to share the real reason for their absence.

With this in mind, we ask you to please advise us of planned leave of absence for your child in advance - absence cannot be authorised retrospectively. Each absence request is considered on an individual basis, but please be advised that "holiday" is not and will not be considered an exceptional circumstance.

Our school's updated Attendance Policy from August will be in line with the national framework, which is thought to include:

- * Unauthorised absences will be looked at over a rolling 3 year period, with no more than 2 penalty notices being issued within those 3 years.
- * Unauthorised absences of 10 sessions or more (5 school days) within a 10 week period will be subject to a Penalty Notice of £160 per child/per parent. This will be reduced to £80 per child/per parent if paid within 21 days.
- * A second period of 10 sessions or more of unauthorised absence in a period of 10 weeks will incur a £160 penalty notice per parent/per child.
- * On the third instance of unauthorised absence meeting the thresholds within the 3 years from the issue date of the first penalty notice, a referral will be made to the Education Welfare Officer for consideration of prosecution.

Unauthorised absence is, but not limited to, unauthorised leave of absence such as term time holiday, no acceptable reason for absence within 5 days of the absence, or late after registers have closed - after 9:35am.

We are pleased to advise that to date, we have not issued any penalty notices to parent/carers for absences/low attendance other than those for unauthorised leave. However, we do expect families with children who are considered to have 'Persistent Absence' - ie, less than 90% attendance or are 'Severely Absent', less than 50%, to work together with school to support the child towards a successful return in line with our Attendance and Safeguarding policies.

In these circumstances the school will work alongside the families, outside agencies and link up with other schools (for example where there is a sibling facing similar difficulties) as necessary.

We do not intend this information to worry or upset anyone but wish to advise you of the forthcoming changes so that you can consider and be fully informed before booking any holidays in term time for September 2024 onwards.

Warmer Weather

We are hoping that warmer, and dryer, weather will be with us soon as we enter the second half of the summer term. Please remember, on sunny days to apply suncream BEFORE school if required, ensure that your child has a sunhat and that they have a water bottle with them for use throughout the day.

Year 6 Leavers T-Shirts

We have chased the suppliers for these items and we hope that they will be delivered just after the half term break. Year 6 leavers will be able to wear their T-shirts on PE days.

Uniform

Please remember our uniform code, a quick guide overleaf confirms what can/cannot be worn on a normal and a PE day for your information.

Non PE Days		PE Days	
Do wear	Don't wear	Do wear	Don't wear
School uniform: *Trousers/skirt/shorts/dress * Shirt or polo shirt * School jumper or cardigan * Shoes, no heels & safe enough for usual daily activities, playtimes etc. * NB. Skirts should no be no shorter than just above the knee. * Leggings are not acceptable on their own but can be worn under skirts. Sports leggings are to be worn on PE days only. * On sunnier days, a sunhat should be brought for use at breaktimes & outside lessons	* Trainers * Leggings on their own, they become too thin very quickly. * Jewellery - a watch may be worn at the owners own responsibility but must be taken off for PE * Earrings - stud earrings may be worn, but must be removed for PE * Nail polish * Headbands - small hairbands may be used * Hoodies	PE Kit: * T-shirt * Sports shorts * Trainers/plimsolls * School jumper /cardigan * Sports leggings/ jogging bottoms * In cold weather bring an additional sweatshirt ** Year 6 may wear their Leavers T-shirts as part of their PE kit if they wish to.	* Earrings - it's best to remove these before school on PE days unless the child can remove & reinsert them by themselves. * Thin leggings on their own

Treasure Trove

We are delighted with the success of the Treasure Trove - we have a good supply of 2nd hand uniform available at the main office and this has proved really popular. There is a supply of logoed jumpers and cardigans, summer dresses, shorts and shirts/polo shirts - please feel free to come and browse if you are looking for some replacement items. We hope to have our full stock of items available outside by the main office entrance on Sports Day - but this will be weather and roofing works dependent, in the meantime, please pop in.

We also have a wonderful selection of books that have been donated to us - if your child would like some new stories to read for the holiday, please feel free to come and browse. We also have a small supply of first readers and books to support phonics ready for a new home.

Our food store is also still available for anyone who may need it. It is now situated at the main office so that we can access it more readily, please call the office to arrange a time for use or call in and see us at the main entrance.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Treasure Trove - either by donating goods or by taking uniform/clothing for repurposing and helping with our recycling efforts.

Finally, we hope that everyone has a safe, fun half term week. Have a rest, see your friends and enjoy yourselves. Please remember that it is a PD on Monday 3rd June for staff training, but we are looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 4th June.

Remember:

- If you think that you may be eligible for Free School Meals, please apply to SCC - there is a link on our website www.trimley.net under parents and school meals. This is particularly important to those children in Year 2 moving into Year 3 as they will no longer be eligible for universal free meals.

- All outstanding amounts for school meals should be settled before the end of term - if you are concerned or experiencing difficulties, please speak to Mrs Filby at the main office.
- If your child has any medical/allergy food requirements, please ensure that we are fully informed and speak to Mrs Filby at the main office for details of how to register this with our caterers.
- Our trial period of including 'Pick 'n' Mix lunches begins after the half term break. Children will be asked at registration whether they are packed lunch, hot or cold school lunch. Please ensure that your child knows what the plan/choice is for their lunch so that we do not have to phone and disturb you to confirm what the lunch arrangements for your child are. Please check your recent Parentmails for menu information.
- If you wish to change any of the permissions for your child for photography or social media, you are able to do so at any time. Please speak to Mrs Pippard at the main office.
- We work closely with Suffolk Family Carers. If there is someone at home, adult or child, with additional physical or mental health needs, a life threatening/shortening illness or is neurodiverse and you would like information on support that may be available for your child at school with us, please contact the main office and ask for Mrs Filby or Mrs Barkworth.
- You can contact your child's class teacher by email to advise of any changes to home arrangements etc. - please do so by 8:30am. Please be advised that emails may not be responded to during the school day as teachers may not have access to them in class. Where emails are sent after 5pm, at weekends and school holidays, please be advised that receipt will not be acknowledged or responded to until the next working day.

Trimley St Mary School PTA

Summer Fair

Saturday 22nd June 2024

11am - 3pm

BBQ

Games

Raffle

Sweets

Ice Cream

Stalls

Face Painting

Crafts

Tombola

Come join in the fun!

Week Commencing Monday 27th May Half Term	
Monday 3 rd June	Non Pupil Day
Tuesday 11 th June	EYFS - Visit to Felixstowe Fire Station
Tuesday 25 th June	Yr 2 - Visit to Foxburrow Farm
Friday 28 th June	Yr1 - Visit to Felixstowe Beach & Landguard Fort
Tuesday 9 th & Wednesday 10 th July	Yr 5 & 6 Production - details to follow soon!
Thursday 11 th July	End of Year Reports
Friday 12 th July	Area Sports Day at School - beware, increased traffic
Monday 15 th July	Sports Day EYFS & KS1 9:30 -11am KS2 1:30 - 3pm
Wednesday 17 th July	Open Evening - come & view our fabulous work 3:30-6pm
Friday 19 th July	Last day of Summer Term Yr 6 Leavers Assembly 2pm
New Academic Year 2024/25	
Monday 2 nd September 2024	Non Pupil Day
Tuesday 3 rd September 2024	First Day of Autumn Term
Week Commencing Monday 28th October 2024 Half Term	
Monday 4 th November	Non Pupil Day
Thursday 14 th November	Individual & Sibling Photos
Friday 20 th December	Last Day of Autumn Term
Monday 6 th January 2025	First Day of Spring Term
Week Commencing 17 th March 2025	Yr 6 Thorpe Woodlands Residential Visit
Week Commencing Monday 17th February 2025 Half Term	
Friday 4 th April 2025	Last Day of Spring Term
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 5 th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 23 rd May	Non Pupil Day
Week Commencing Monday 26th May 2025 Half Term	
Friday 18 th July 2025	Last Day of Summer Term