



Haughton St Giles



Dream to Achieve



Friday 8th October 2021

Absence from School & Attendance

We have received a lot of holiday requests recently and we would like to remind you of the school's 'Absence from School Policy'.

We want all of our pupils in school for as much time as possible in order to maximise their learning time and opportunities. We strongly discourage term time breaks and holidays and we ask parents not to request them unless they are for truly exceptional circumstances (see below).

Points to remember:-

- Under legislation in September 2013, the Government has made it clear that parents **do not** have an automatic right to withdraw their child from school during term time.
- Under legislation in September 2013, the Government has made it clear that Headteachers **no longer have the discretion** to authorise term time absence, **unless it is due to exceptional circumstances.**
- Taking a pupil out of school during term time disrupts their learning and may cause them to fall behind their peers. Absence can also affect a child's relationship with others.
- Term time breaks when added to unpredictable absences e.g. for medical reasons, all add up. **Learning time lost from school cannot be replaced!**
- **If the absence is not authorised and the holiday / time is taken anyway, the case may be referred to the Education Welfare Service who may issue a Penalty Notice for each child taken out of school.**

Examples of exceptional circumstances may be:

- Family bereavements.
- Service personnel prevented from term time holidays. Family crisis/serious issue meaning family needs to spend time together.
- Certain exams and recognised short time sporting/ cultural activities (evidence needed).
- Religious observance.

Documentary evidence may be requested for an exceptional circumstance before a decision can be made.

Each request will be considered by the Headteacher. Term time holidays because they are cheaper out of school holiday term do not constitute exceptional circumstances and will not be authorised. **Please note you will receive a standardised letter which will not make any reference to your personal circumstances.**

Penalty Notice for leave of absence (holiday) in term time:

Any period of unauthorised leave may result in you as a parent receiving a penalty notice fine. The Local Education Authority are clear that the head teacher is the only person who is able to authorise leave in term time, and as such they may only do this in exceptional circumstances. Any unauthorised absence therefore will be referred to the Local Authority.

Penalty Notice for persistent lateness:

Previously a pupil had to achieve 20 unauthorised late marks before a penalty notice warning could be issued. This has now changed to 10 marks, and late marks do not have to be one after the other in order for the penalty notice to be issued. You are therefore encouraged where possible to ensure your child attends school on time. However, if your child is late you must inform the school office of the reason(s) why, as they may be able to offer you some form of advice or support.

Other Absences

Absence forms are not needed for illness or any Y6 children attending Open Mornings or visits to future high schools. For any hospital appointments, we will require a copy of the appointment letter. Also please try to arrange routine dental or doctors appointments **outside** of school hours.

If your child will be away from school, for any of the above reasons, please let us know by **telephone or e-mail before 9:30a.m. each day**, confirming the reason for the absence.

If your child is not in school for morning registration but will be returning to school for lunch, please ensure that you inform the office of your child's lunch preference and/or meal choice **before 9:30am**.

Volunteer Readers

Can you spare an hour or two a week to listen to children read?

We are looking for a small army of volunteers to come in to school and listen to our children read. You will be offering support on a one to one basis to help them to become confident readers; thus enabling our children to find more enjoyment in the various texts by improving their reading accuracy and fluency. Listening to children read will help them to become more independent, by giving them strategies so that they know what to do when they come across a difficulty. We want our children to read with confidence, understanding and be able to pose questions about what they are reading.

If you think this is something you'd like to do and you have a spare hour or two, then please email the school office.

Drop off & Pick up

Once again we have received complaints from local residents, regarding parents' at drop off & pick up times. Therefore, please can we ask that you don't block drives, park on double yellow lines or zig zags, leave your engines running for long periods of time, but also reduce your speed when approaching the school. We appreciate that drop off & pick up times can be hectic & busy periods, but a bit of care & consideration for all, can make for a more enjoyable start & finish to the day.

Thank you for your continued support.

Academy Photography

Academy Photography will be in school on Tuesday 12th October, in order to take individual photographs of all the children in school. If you have children who are not currently school age or at Little Seeds nursery and you would like a group photo of your children, then please come to the school office at 8:30am. All other photos i.e. siblings & Little Seeds children will be taken later that morning so there is no need to attend the 8:30am slot.

Academy Photography will return proofs to school, which will then be sent home via your child. All information on how to order photographs will be inside the proof packs.

Parentpay

We are noticing that a few parents are letting their accounts go into arrears & not making regular payments to clear any outstanding balances and we are having to chase payments. Therefore, please can we request that **all** accounts are in credit when ordering school meals. If you are struggling to make payments or need help with your Parentpay account then please speak to Mrs Kelly in the office.

Thank you for your continued support.

'Hello Yellow Day'

Today we raised a staggering: **£123**

Thanks everyone for brightening up the day by wearing a spot of yellow!

PTFA News

PTFA Discos are back!!

We are delighted to announce that we will be holding our first disco since February 2020 on Thursday 21st October, with KS1 (Acorn & Conker classes) from 5-6pm and KS2 (Birch, Oak & Chestnut classes) from 6:15 - 7:15pm). Tickets will be £3 on the door. Children will be able to purchase; burgers at £2.50, along with drinks, sweets & snacks from the tuck shop. Also, to help with Covid safety measures, please can we ask that parents **do not** stay with their child/ren.

AGM Update

Due to the lack of venues, we have had to move the PTFA AGM to the same night as the disco. It will be held at 8pm on Thursday 21st October in The Bell at Haughton. We would love to see as many of you as possible, so why not come along and find out what we have been up to over the last year and maybe join us for a chat afterwards.

Recent Purchases

We have recently been proud to donate £4000 to the school to enable them to purchase three new interactive whiteboards to enhance the learning and we have also been supporting the completion of the pond restoration to allow it to be used as an outdoor learning environment. This is all thanks to the generosity of parents who have supported our events and the hard work of the PTFA helpers, whether that be staff, parents, grandparents or friends.

Finally, if you be interested in joining the PTFA and take on a more specific role such as; Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer or Social Media Coordinator or if you'd like to be added to our 'WhatsApp' group, we'd be delighted to hear from you! Please call Ben on 07855 971884.

Clubs

Thank you for your patience while we sorted after school clubs. We are pleased to welcome back Progressive Sports who will be running the following clubs from 3:30 - 4:30pm on a Tuesday & Wednesday after half term.

Tuesday 2nd November - Multi - Sports. A variety of sports & games that will be different each week (6 weeks)

Wednesday 3rd November - Football (6 weeks)

If you would like to book your child on to either of these clubs then please complete the booking form that will be emailed out next week. These clubs will be at a cost of £15 per club per child and are for 6 weeks.

Y6 Residential

Our Y6 residential has over the years been an absolute success, where the children have flourished and thoroughly enjoyed their time in the outdoors. Unfortunately this year, with the closure of Shugborough & Chasewater and then only having Laches Wood & Standon Bowers as options, which are both fully booked due to Covid postponed visits, we are having to look further a field for our Y6 residential.

Please bear with us as we try to find a venue that is not only suitable for our requirements, but is also cost effective for you as parents. As soon as we have confirmed a location and the overall cost, we will be in touch.

Change to Term Dates

As you will be aware there is an extra Bank Holiday on Thursday 2nd June 2022, to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As this date occurs within the normal May half term break, it has been decided that with regards school, this will be moved to Monday 6th June and the original Inset Day will now take place on Friday 27th May. Please see the revised Term Dates at the end of this newsletter.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 12th October - Academy Photography in school

Wednesday 13th October - Harvest Service in Church (Pupils Only & Monetary Donations to House of Bread)

Wednesday 20th October - Y5 Girls & Y6 Boys Puberty Talks

Monday 25th - Friday 29th October - Half Term

Monday 1st November - Inset Day (no pupils)

Tuesday 2nd November - School reopens

Wednesday 3rd November - Parents' Evening (more info to follow)

Monday 8th November - Parents' Evening (more info to follow)

Wednesday 17th November - Open Morning 9:30 & 11:00am (Sept 2022 intake Parents Only)

Thursday 25th November - Whole School Flu Immunisations

Wednesday 1st December - Open Morning 9:30 & 11:00am (Sept 2022 intake Parents Only)

Monday 20th December - Monday 3rd January - Christmas Holidays

Tuesday 4th January - Inset Day (no pupils)

Wednesday 5th January - School reopens

Autumn 2021	Term starts: Thurs 2 nd Sept (INSET day) Fri 3 rd Sept (INSET day)*
	*Children attend Monday 6th September
	Half term: 25 th -29 th Oct
	Term ends: Fri 17 th Dec
Spring 2022	INSET day: Tues 4 th Jan
	Term Starts: Wed 5 th Jan
	Half term: 21 st -25 th Feb
	INSET day: Mon 28 th Feb
	Term ends: Fri 8 th Apr
Summer 2022	Term starts: Mon 25 th Apr
	INSET Day: Friday 27 th May
	Half term: 30 th May-3 rd June
	Bank Holiday: Mon 6 th June
	Term ends: Fri 22 nd Jul

Changes due to Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations