



Telephone 675 2670

Website address: www.holyfam.bham.sch.uk

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ATTENDANCE

We aim for 100% attendance for every child.

Class of the Week

Year 6 Class with 98.62% w/e 13/9/13

(closely followed by Y2 with 98.33%)

Whole School Attendance was 96.59%

219 children achieved 100% Attendance last week

Dear Parents,

Friday 20th September 2013

Attendance - 'Leave in Term Time', 'Spotlight',

'Improving Attendance Campaign', 'Punctuality' and 'Catch Up Club'

Parents will have heard in the news that the regulations regarding leave in term time have changed as per The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. All references to family holiday and extended leave have been removed. The amendments make clear that Head Teachers **may not grant any leave of absence during term time** unless there are exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances are death of a parent or death of a sibling (brother/sister) of a child in school (grandparents and other relatives are not included).

In order to continue improving our attendance, next week parents will receive our '**Spotlight letter**' in the post together with a form for you to sign for our '**Improving Attendance Campaign**'. Please **return the form** to the school office **by next Friday 27th September.**

Children that arrive late to school are often embarrassed or anxious entering the classroom when their lessons have started. They will have missed vital information about what will be happening during the day and more importantly the explanation of the learning for the first lesson. From Monday next week, we will be issuing our late children, red punctuality letters as usual. These children will then need to attend our Friday lunchtime '**Catch Up Club**' to complete the work they have missed that week through arriving late.

This Week's News

This week in school our Year 5 children enjoyed a visit to hear the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra perform a concert for children from Birmingham schools; this class was selected particularly because they are in their second year of learning to play the clarinet and I think it's always a bonus if children can see and hear the professionals and realise the potential for themselves. All the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Our new swimming programme has begun with half of our Year 4 pupils attending every Friday morning (the children need to be in school by 8.15 am). The swimming lessons take place at St. Martin's Girls School in Solihull. The swimming pool and facilities are impressive and very clean. The group of 15 pupils are taught by two swimming teachers who teach in the water for one hour and the progress in just one lesson was phenomenal.

All children will take part in swimming unless he/she has a valid medical reason detailed on a doctor's note. Girls are advised to wear swimming hats. Boys must wear correct swim trunks and **not the long Bermuda shorts type.**



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Parents please take note of the following forthcoming school closures.

Whole School Teacher Training Day Monday 4th November 2013 School closed to all pupils.

Early Years Teacher Training Day Wednesday 6th November 2013 School closed to Nursery pupils only.

Parents will be also aware that there is a day of Industrial Action planned by two of the teaching unions on Tuesday 1st October; at this point in time I cannot confirm whether our school will be affected but will inform parents about this as soon as I can.

Eid is fast approaching and we have been informed that it will fall on 15th October. Muslim families who inform us in advance that they are taking part in religious observance will have one day absence authorised. If families do not make contact with the school, any absence will be recorded as unauthorised. The position of Eid this year in the calendar means that we have to re organise our parents evening again for our Y2 and Y5 classes and so a revised date has been selected; please see the table below.

Forth coming Parents Evenings

Please keep the following evenings free to come and meet your child's teacher and find out how they have settled into their new class.

Year 5	Monday 21st October
Year 4	Wednesday 9 th October
Year 3	Wednesday 9 th October
Year 2	Monday 21st October
Year 1	Wednesday 9 th October
Reception	Wednesday 9 th October
Nursery	Wednesday 9 th October

Year 4 Kingswood residential visit Monday 7th to Wednesday 9th April 2014

Thank you to those Y4 parents who attended my meetings yesterday. We currently have 11 children signed up to go to Kingswood and the visit will take place. I am keen for all our Y4 pupils to have this great opportunity and I will be showing the Y4 children a video about Kingswood next week and I will send out more letters. Please do consider this outside learning opportunity for your child.

Healthy Lunch Boxes

May I remind parents that children who bring a packed lunch are only allowed water as a drink (which is freely available in school) and that chocolate or chocolate covered biscuits, crisps, sweets etc. are not allowed. Parents may request a copy of our School Food Policy which clearly explains our rules.

Finally, could I ask all our families to pray for Mr Orsler and his family. Mr Orsler's mother passed away last week after a long illness and her funeral will take place next week.

May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Yours sincerely

M. Mulroy

Mrs. M. Mulroy
Headteacher

