Attendance Newsletter

November 2026





Autumn time

As always, thank you to our families for continuing to work with us to ensure that all children have the best possible attendance.

Winter Illness

As we head into the colder months, we understand that children may experience seasonal coughs and colds. If your child is generally well-eating, playing, and able to manage their day-they should attend school. We can support them with rest, fluids, and paracetamol if needed and will keep a close eye on their wellbeing throughout the day. We can also administer prescription medication. Being in school helps maintain routine, learning, and connection with friends. Please keep your child at home only if they have a high temperature, are too unwell to manage the day, or have been advised to stay off by a medical professional.

Local Authority procedures

The minimum attendance percentage for children in school is 95%. Any attendance below this is monitored by both school and the Local Authority.

Local Authority is changing the procedures in line with the Inclusive attendance approach so if children are absent for up to 10 sessions (5 days) families will receive a letter and offer of support. This could include a meeting with staff in school or the local authority attendance team. This is approach to ensure families and schools work collaboratively to improve attendance, or punctuality. There will be more details as soon as this is released by the Local Authority.

Punctuality reminder

8.35: Gates open (children are parents' responsibility)
8.40: Key stage 1 door opens.
8:45: School day begins-Key stage 2 children come into school. ***
8:55: Gates close. Pupils are now late and must be signed in at the office by an adult with a valid reason given.

*** Although children are not classed as late until 8:55 am, they are missing the start of the school day which includes feedback on the previous day's learning, wellbeing check in, basic skills such as handwriting lessons or 1:1 reading.

Absences in <u>2025-2026 year</u>

Days of learning lost to: Holidays: 185.5
Illness: 1399
Other unauthorised: 297
Medical appointments: 175.5
Lates: 1500
Lates after registration has closed: 121

Absences in <u>First half of autumn term</u>

Days of learning lost to: Holidays: 2
Illness: 213
Other unauthorised: 10
Medical appointments: 34.5
Lates: 198
Lates after registration has closed: 12

*Please note the enormous number of lates. Just a reminder that the school day starts at 8:45



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REMINDERS ABOUT ABSENCE PROCEDURES

- Please inform the school office before 8:30 am if your child will be absent from school
- You may be asked to supply medical evidence such as medication or appointment letters
- Please arrange appointments outside of school hours where possible
- If you have not contacted school, Mrs. Elvidge (previously known as Mrs. Butterworth) will contact you to find out the reason for absence
- Mrs. Elvidge may also contact you at the end of the school day to enquire about your child and discuss their

#MISS SCHOOL #MISS OUT

Some of the things our children say they would have missed out on if they were absent from school next half term…

- **Christmas shows**
- **Christmas parties**
- **New OPAL Playtimes with toys**
- **Forest School**
- **Whole school science afternoon**
- **Save the aliens**
- **Yr 3/4 Science fun-digestive system including food journey.**
- **DT making sandwiches**
- **Art making clay Stone age pots and doing cave drawings outside.**

Term Time Holidays

Taking holidays during term time can significantly disrupt your child's learning. As well as missing vital English and maths lessons, which build sequentially and underpin future progress, your child will also miss at least one full unit of a foundation subject such as science and history, or design technology. These units are carefully planned to develop key knowledge and skills, and missing them can lead to lasting gaps in understanding. Every lesson matters.

Information on the Inclusive attendance project can be found here: https://www.fishergateschool.com/information-for-parents-and-carers/inclusive-attendance

Contact Information:

Phone: 01904 555335

Email: admin@fishergateschool.com