

Dear Parents and Carers,

In my last letter I shared the new expectations placed on schools by the Department of Education for School Attendance. I shared that schools are no longer able to authorise holidays during term time and that fines of £160 will be issued (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days).

Getting to school on time is equally important.

- School doors open at **8:40am**
- Morning registration is taken between **8:50am** and **9:00am**. If a pupil arrives between **9:01am-9:20am** they will be marked as **Late (L)**. If they arrive after **9:20am** the register will record the pupil as **unauthorised absent (U)** for the morning session. If poor and erratic and unauthorised attendance emerges, families may also be liable to fines. Reasons for late and absent marks are recorded for school to see if there are any patterns to absence. This makes it all the more important for parents and carers to contact school by phone to explain the reason for a late arrival or absence.

The last thing we want is to issue fines to families. We would much rather work with you, providing support to make sure your child attends school regularly and meets the 94% attendance target. School has an attendance team that is there to support families. Where absence is explained, for example medical appointments, with supporting letters, absence is authorised. Attendance is reported weekly by teachers. Where attendance becomes a concern school will make contact with families to offer support. It is a legal requirement that children attend school regularly until they are 16 and remain in Education, Employment and Training until they are 18. Attendance will be a focus for the Education Welfare Officer and Ofsted.

Every pupil who attends Greenbank School has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). School sets objectives for pupils to work towards within their plan. These are **Short Term Objectives (STO's)**, which are reviewed and set every term. The STO for your child for the Autumn Term will be sent home next Friday. STO's for Yr7 will follow later as school needs time to settle the pupils in and assess where the priority objectives lie.

Health and Safety is a priority in school. This includes the arrival and departure of pupils from the school site. Last Friday a number of reports were received by school of a small 'grey vehicle' arriving at speed, entering Greenbank School Car Park area. At the start and end of the day there is an increase in pupil traffic from Greenbank and the local Primary and Secondary schools. The last thing anyone would want is for a child to be knocked down. **The site speed limit is 10 mph**. Please observe the limit.

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Headteacher: Mr M. McCann

Willow Cat Rescue Project

Pupil's in KS 4 have formed an Environment Careers Team and have put together a rescue project to support Willowsway Cat Rescue. This work forms part of their Careers Education and Guidance curriculum. Letters have been sent home via home news books, but I have been asked by the team to send another copy with this home newsletter.

Governing Board

School currently has a vacancy for a Parent Governor and is looking for nominations for this position. The Governing Board works closely with the Head teacher, who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school. Governors are responsible for strategic planning and policy development. They work as a team, to monitor and evaluate progress in school and regularly review the strategic framework. They also act as a critical friend to the Head teacher to ensure that school is run to promote the achievement and wellbeing of all pupils.

Being a School Governor is a challenging but rewarding responsibility.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact Mrs Dottie Bennett – School Operational Manager on 01606 663820 by Friday 27th September 2024, providing her with contact details in order that Mr Philip Hopwood (Chair of Governors) can discuss your interest in the post of Parent Governor further.

In the event of more than 2 parents being interested in supporting school in this way an election will be held.

Hello from Residential

I would like to thank everyone who came to the Residential BBQ and made it a great success. It was lovely to see so many families and spend time showing you Residential. All the staff commented on how much they had enjoyed speaking to all of you and putting names to faces.

We are all very much looking forward to next week, welcoming group 1 to Residential. We know this can be a scary time for both the young people and parents, so remember you can call any time to ask any questions or to check-in.

Have a lovely weekend!

Charlene and the Residential Team

Yours faithfully,

Mr McCann
Head Teacher



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