

Our Lady's October 2025

A message from Miss Cahill



Dear Parents,

8 weeks completed already - times does fly by!

It has been a wonderful half term in school. Lots of learning, fun and excitement. When we walk around the school it is truly an honour to see the learning taking place - from counting and calculations in maths to experiments in Science and mixing colours in art.

Year 6 have completed wonderful still life art as part of their Art unit of work - it would rival Caravaggio! We have had fantastic class assemblies linked to Catholic Social Teaching and how we can make a difference in the world around us. Thank you to year 2, 4 and 6 for these. Year 3 have been created bug hotels to care for and protect the wildlife. Year 5 have raised money for Tabor Homeless shelter following inspiration from their English work. Year Reception have settled wonderfully into school life and are already making progress in their learning. Year 1 have been focused on stages of life and using childhood pictures of familiar faces to identify these stages. Year 2 have also shared me some learning in Latin during the month of October to celebrate the Holy Rosary.

Half term

Today is the children's last day at school before the half term break - tomorrow is an INSET day and then we have a week half term break. We return to school at 8.35 on Monday 3rd November.

Bikes / Scooters

If children travel to school using a bike or scooter they must **dismount before entering the school site and playground area**. This is to ensure the safety of all. With so many people coming in and out at the beginning at end of the day it's not safe for them to be riding them at these times. This also goes for older siblings who may join you for collection or drop off. Thank you for your support with this.

Autumn 2 Half Term

The second half of this term does become busy with Christmas events - I have previously shared an email with you from the School association with key dates and events. These are also in this newsletter for your information.

Please see below for some key reminders regarding school attendance, parental conduct and advice about when to keep your child off school if they are unwell.

Thank you all for your continued support

Best wishes,

Miss Cahill

Parking

Yesterday I shared an email with regard to using the staff car park in school. Only parents with permission from the headteacher is permitted to use the staff car park.

This week there have been a number of cars using the staff car park that do not have permission to do so.

We currently have an issue with the electrics within the gate system which is why we have been leaving them open however some parents are taking advantage of this.

The number of cars in the car park could have resulted in an accident or damage to other cars. Although school is not liable should an accident occur we want to ensure that the risk of this is incredibly low and do all we can to ensure safety for all our pupils, parents and staff.

Therefore the school gate will now be closed for the morning drop off until the electrics have been fixed the office can then operate the gates as they did previously.

With this being said, **please also continue to be considerate of our neighbours when parking around school for collection and drop off. Please do not block driveways, damage grass areas or park in a way that could be considered a hazard.**

Parents Evening



Thank you to all those who attended Parents Evening this week - it was incredibly successful and it was wonderful to see so many of you come for an update regarding your child's academic progress.

Some of you did share that you had booked appointments but they didn't come through on our booking sheet - you do have to press 'Save' once you have chosen your time allocation - please bear this in mind for the next Parents Evening in the Spring term.

We had 65% successfully book appointments using the online system - Thank you!

School Association



Dates from the school association with regard to upcoming dates/events:

Our annual Christmas Fair is scheduled for Friday 12th December. The Christmas Fair starts at 3.30pm.

We would like to ask for your support with the events below to support us in being able to put on a wonderful Christmas Fair for our school community.

- Thursday 6th November Pyjama day – bottles donations please
- Thursday 13th November – non-school uniform day – Gifts/ 'Bric a brac' + Gift bag donations please
- Thursday 11th Dec Non-uniform day – cake donations please

Other Festive fun events (more information about these will follow)

- Key stage 1 games night – 4th December 3.15 - 4.15pm
- Key stage 2 disco – 18th December 3.15pm - 4.30pm
- Christmas Jumper day Wed 17th December £1 per family

A word from Pope Leo.....*“Let us disarm words and we will help to disarm the world.”* (12.05.25)



This is a wonderful reminder from Pope Leo about the significant impact of our words.

When we are unkind, make accusations or insult we belittle the human dignity of others.

When we praise, support and nurture we build others up to enable them to be the best they can be.

Our words, language and verbal approach to others is the first step in removing the violence and animosity that is so prevalent in our world today.

Holiday requests / Leave in Term Time



Unfortunately, holidays in term time will not be authorised and could result in a referral to the Local Authority where further action may be taken. Children have missed a lot of learning during the pandemic, please only take holidays during the school breaks.

There is updated guidance effective from 19th August 2024 that will have been sent to you - do have a look at the detail (summarised below):

- Increase in fine - From £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days. From £120 to £160 after this 21 days.
- If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling three-year period, the notice will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at £80.
- Further unauthorised absences within a 3 year period may result in further more serious sanctions eg prosecution.

Thank you, we really appreciate your support in helping your children receive the best learning opportunities that they can.

2024/2025 there have been **18 fines** issued for holidays in term time.

We are on week 3 of the new school year and we are already aware of 5 families taking holidays in term time this half term. Holidays in term time are unauthorised and therefore

finances from the council may also follow. Education for our young people is so important - we do understand that holidays are cheaper but please do not take them out of school. Each day missed from education can have a significant impact on the children's progress and attainment.

Attendance



Attendance Period: 02/09/2024 to 17/10/2025

- Reception - 94.21%
- Year 1 - 95.75% - very close Year 1!
- Year 2 - **96.15% - well done year 2**
- Year 3 - 95.47% - very close Year 3!
- Year 4 - **96.74% - well done year 4**
- Year 5 - 93.71%
- Year 6 - 93.21%

Whole school - 95.03%

Our whole school target is 96%

We already have 40 children in school whose attendance is below 90% and a further 26 whose attendance is between 90 and 95%.

96% is equivalent to missing 8 days of education across the year - it is vital that your children are here so that they can learn! Every day matters!

GOOD ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Every school day counts

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

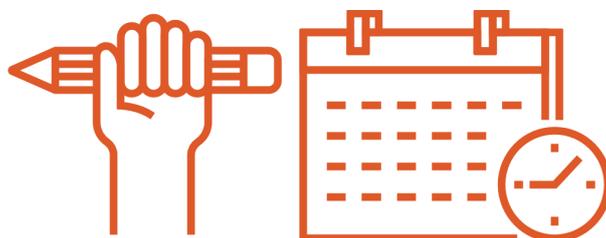
Why is regular school attendance and good punctuality so important for my child?

Regular attendance at school means that your child can make the most of their education and improve their chances in adult life. School can also help your child's social skills such as making and developing friendships.

The link between attendance and attainment in school is clear. The more a child is in school the more they increase their opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Good punctuality is important. For example, if a child arrives 15 minutes late at school each day, they lose almost 2 weeks of education over the year. Good punctuality also helps your child get into good habits for when they enter the world of work.

Lateness can cause your child embarrassment and, in some circumstances, can count as unauthorised absence.



How can I help my child enjoy school and attend regularly?

Be organised, have a plan, be consistent and involve your child!

You should:

- ensure they have an appropriate bedtime routine
- create good routines for mornings at home so that your child can arrive punctually and are properly equipped;
- avoid absence from school wherever possible – try to make doctors and dental appointments out of school hours
- make time to encourage and show interest in school work, friendships etc.
- attend school open evenings and functions

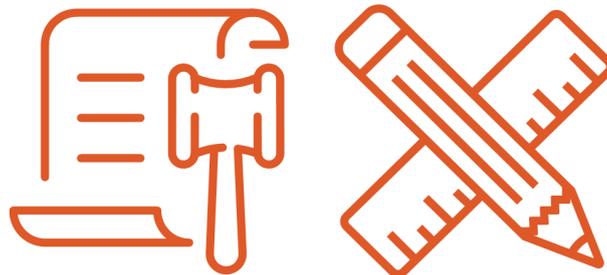
- Create a calm space for them to do homework, check they understand the homework and that it has been completed.
- share any education concerns your child or you may have with the school staff as soon as possible
- set realistic boundaries

Holidays/Leave in term time

Holidays in term time are not allowed. Parents/carers must apply for the authorisation of any leave prior to travel or their children could be reported to the council as missing in education.

Leave for other circumstances such as bereavement or family illness abroad may also not be authorised. Informing the school does not mean the leave is agreed. In the event of a genuine family emergency, parents should avoid requesting more than 5 school days absence. Leave due to weddings is unlikely to be authorised.

Two weeks unauthorised holiday/leave means at least 50 lessons missed that will never be repeated.



What does the law say I must do as a parent/carer?

Once your child is registered at a school, you are legally responsible for making sure they attend regularly. This means your child should not have any unauthorised absence as this would constitute an offence in law.

When attendance doesn't improve after support or, when a minimum of 5 days unauthorised holiday/leave is taken, legal action can be taken.

Courts can fine parents/carers up to £1,000 per child and for repeat offences the court can fine parents/carers up to £2,500 per child or impose a prison sentence of up to 3 months.

In many cases, but not all, parents/carers can discharge an offence by paying a penalty notice of £160 for each parent per child, discounted to £80 if paid within 21 days. For a family of two parents/carers with 3 children that would be at least £480.

Where can I get help and advice?

If you need support in relation to your child's attendance, help is available. Please make an appointment with the school to discuss your concerns.

Most difficulties can be resolved informally, but the staff can also arrange an early help assessment or make a request for support to Birmingham Children's Trust if necessary, with your consent.

School nurses can also be helpful if your child has a medical condition or has a lot of time off due to illness.

Parents/carers are strongly advised to work in partnership with the school to address any difficulties impacting school attendance. For more information about school attendance or if you need help or support, please use these links:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/saap www.birmingham.gov.uk/love



Nut Free



A reminder that we are a **nut-free school** as we have children and staff with severe nut allergies. Please check ingredients of snacks and lunch items before you send them into school.

Diary Dates



Fri 24th Oct - Teacher Training Day - school closed to pupils

Mon 27th Oct - Fri 31st Oct Half term School Closed

Tues 11th Nov - Year 6 trip to London Parliament visit

Thurs 13th Nov - Open Morning school tours for new parents 9.30am and 11.30am

Mon 1st Dec - Year 6 residential trip to Manor Adventure

Tues 2nd Dec - Flu immunisation team in school

Wed 3rd Dec - Year 6 returning from Manor Adventure residential in the afternoon

Fri 19th Dec - Break up for Christmas Holidays

Mon 5th Jan 2026 - Teacher Training Day school closed to pupils

Tues 6th Jan 2026 - School open to pupils/staff

School Year 2025 to 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Term starts: Monday 1 September 2025

Half-term: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025

Term ends: Friday 19 December 2025

Spring Term 2026

Term starts: Monday 5 January 2026

Half-term: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Term ends: Friday 27 March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Term starts: Monday 13 April 2026

Half-term: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Term ends: Monday 20 July 2026

Inset Days 2025/26

- Monday 1st September
- Friday 24th October
- Monday 5th January
- Monday 23rd February
- Monday 1st June
- Monday 20th July

child off school?



Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for **health protection in schools** or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.