

# Ditton Primary Newsletter

13th September 2024



## Message from the Headteacher

We have had a wonderful beginning to the new academic year. The children have adapted well to their learning and new classes. Rock Kidz Day is always a highlight at school, and this year was no different. The children enthusiastically participated, and we appreciate the support from parents.

Please remember that parents are encouraged to speak with the staff present on the playground each morning to address any concerns. One issue that has been brought to our attention is parking. Vehicles should not be parked on any of the yellow hatchings, which is why we use the metal 'parking buddies.' This measure is in place to ensure the safety of our entire school community.

## Asda Cashpot

We really appreciate the efforts that parents have gone to to support the school in this initiative. Please remember to download the Asda rewards app and scan and shop – please tell your friends and family that we'd appreciate their support as well!!



# Diary Dates



## SEPTEMBER

17th and 18th – School Photographs

25th – Year 6 Parent’s Meeting @ 5pm

## OCTOBER

4th – Yr 6 trip to Imperial War Museum

16th – Yr 5 trip to Tatton Park

18th – School Closes for Half term

## NOVEMBER

4th – School reopens

8th – Interim reports to parents

13th /14th – Parent consultations

19th – Flu immunisations

# Attendance - IMPORTANT

The government issued new procedures for absence from school, which became statutory in August 2024.

The guidance sets out expectation of parents:

- That you will ensure that your child attends school regularly and that you notify the school as soon as possible when your child has to be unexpectedly absent.
- That you only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and that you do so in advance to the Headteacher.
- That where possible you book medical appointments around the school day but when this cannot be avoided and your child has an appointment in school time you notify the school in advance (and if your child attends the appointment in uniform, they can return to school afterwards)
- That you work with your child’s school and the Local Authority to help with the understanding of any barriers to your child attending school regularly.
- That you engage with support offered.

In addition to outlining the expectations on parents, schools and Local Authorities, the Department for Education has also made changes to penalty notices: The cost of each penalty notice will increase for any offences committed after 19th August to £160 (£80 if paid within 21 days) for the first offence.

One of the changes introduced from 19th August is that where a parent takes the child out of school and commits a second offence within a rolling three year period the penalty notice amount will automatically be set at the £160 (with no reduction for early payment). For any third offence in the rolling three year period there will be no penalty notice but there will be a prosecution.

Penalty notices are issued per parent, per child.

The new guidance is implemented to support the best school attendance for every child in Halton and applies to all schools in England.

# Attendance - IMPORTANT

## PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ARE CHANGING!

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PENALTY NOTICES, THE FOLLOWING CHANGES WILL COME INTO FORCE FOR PENALTY NOTICE FINES ISSUED AFTER 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024.

dadsnet

### PER PARENT, PER CHILD

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines. (6 in total)

### 5 CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF TERM TIME LEAVE

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days. Inset training days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days where there was intent to be absent for term time leave.

### 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period

### 1ST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

### 2ND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

### 3RD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to **£2500** per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education.'

This is a national approach and Penalty Notice Fines are issued by the Local Authority – not the school. We are committed to working with parents and aim to support all our pupils and families.

# Reception



Our first full week at Ditton, and what a week of firsts we have had. We enjoyed our first Spanish Lesson on Monday, our first music Lesson on Wednesday and our first Rock Kidz experience. We have been reading 'The Something' by Rebecca Cobb in English, and drawing what we think could be down the hole! In maths we have been counting objects from larger groups and we have been Learning about Kind hands in our PSED sessions.

## Notices:

- Please ensure that ALL clothing is named, including shoes.
- Wellies need to be in school for the first Forest School session on Wednesday.

# Year 1

This week, Year 1 have started to settle into their new daily routines.

In English, the children have been introduced to our class story for the term, Old Bear by Jane Hissey. The children have shared ideas and written predictions about the bear who is stuck in the attic.

In maths, the children have been deepening their knowledge of numbers within 10. They have been counting objects and representing them with different resources and they have been counting by crossing out.

We have had a fantastic start to our year and we are really looking forward to seeing the children grow and progress.

# Year 2

Year 2 have had a wonderful first full week back! In English we have been enjoying the story *The Night Gardener* by the Fan Brothers. We have been writing sentences with interesting adjectives to describe scenes from the story. In Maths we have been sequencing numbers to 100. And we had the BEST time dressing up and rocking out with RockKidz on Wednesday. What a week!

## Reminders:

- PE/Forest school are on a Wednesday afternoon this half term. - Please ensure children bring a spare pair of shoes/wellies with them.
- BoomReader is to be updated at least 3 times per week, rewards will be given to those that reach/pass the target
- Please write names on items of clothing so they can be easily identified and returned to children



## Year 3

It's been a busy week in Year 3! In English, we have started to read 'The Iron Man' and we have enjoyed writing our own Kenning poems about him. In Maths, we have been working hard to understand place value with lots of practical activities. We loved rocking out with 'RockKidz' on Wednesday and we have also started our new topic about 'Rocks' in Science. Please try and log in to TT Rockstars every day for 10 minutes and please return yellow homework books by Wednesday of next week. Spellings will be tested next Friday – have a great weekend!



## Year 4

What a great start to the new year we have had! In Maths, we have reviewed our prior knowledge of 3-digit numbers and moved on to work with thousands. We have really enjoyed using arrow cards and place value counters to help us understand and partition. A series of mystery objects left us puzzled earlier in the week but we set to work exploring them and predicted what kind of story they could be linked to. We discovered that they were all linked to The Whale by Ethan & Vita Murrow. On Wednesday, we had a ball rocking out with RockKidz.

## Year 5

The children have made a great start in Year 5! In English, we have started reading Henry's Freedom Box - the true story of a boy who mailed himself to freedom. We will be writing a diary in a few weeks, in role as Henry. In maths, we have started to revisit and develop our understanding of place value. In science, the children enjoyed investigating solubility. We are pleased to see how many children are logging reading sessions at home on Boom. Each week we will reward those children who read 3 or more times and log this on our reading app. Homework books have been sent home today. These should be returned by next Wednesday.

## Year 6

What a magnificent start to the year. The children have already showcased some of their skills and we have got stuck into three super books – Rose Blanche, which we are studying for Writing, Boy in the Tower, which was our first Shared Reading book, and RJ Palacio's Wonder, which we have been reading at the end of the day together. In Science, we have been exploring electrical circuit symbols while in RE we have discussed reincarnation. Music has started with playing the acoustic guitar while in History we are exploring British conflicts since 1066. And of course, Rock Kids went down a storm!



# Certificate Winners!

Name	School Value	Reason
Ruben F	Pioneering	For fantastic independent writing in English. Well done!
Ellie L	Resilience	For overcoming her fears about Year 1 and coming into school every day with a smile. Well done!
Daisy W	Children First	For making an excellent start to Year 3 in Ditton –excellent behaviour at all times
Spencer	Resilience	For trying his best and making a positive start to the new school year.
Joshua B	Children First	For being a very supportive member of year 3 and making sure that everyone has settled well.
Elijah	Resilience	For settling so well into his new routine in Year 1. Superstar!
Jenson N	Pioneering	For enthusiastically taking part in our adult led and independent learning this week
Gracie	Children First	For helping and giving to others even when she was the one in need.
Noah T	Resilience	For completing extra tasks in Maths with independence
Eva B	Resilience	For trying her best and making a great start to the new school year!
Scarlett C	Children First	For being brave when settling into her new school. We are thrilled to have you in our class

# Attendance!

Class	Attendance	Punctuality
Mrs L-Byrne/Mrs Till	94.79% This is below the school target of 96%	4 lates
Mr Longworth	88.52% This is below the school target of 96%	3 lates
Miss Dixon	95.06% This is below the school target of 96%	1 late Well Done!!!
Mrs Driscoll	93.75% This is below the school target of 96%	5 lates
Miss Alderton	89.9% This is below the school target of 96%	5 lates
Miss Powell	89.33% This is below the school target of 96%	5 lates
Mrs Magan	91.67% This is below the school target of 96%	5 lates
Mr Paul	94.49% This is below the school target of 96%	5 lates
Mr Lynch	95.86% This is below the school target of 96%	7 lates
Mrs Hubball	83.86% This is below the school target of 96%	2 lates
Mr Linaker	97.78% Fantastic!! Well done!! THIS WEEK'S WINNERS!!	5 lates
Miss Woodward	91.93% This is below the school target of 96%	6 lates
Mr White	95.12% This is below the school target of 96%	2 lates
Mr Bourque	97.12% Fantastic!! Well done!!	7 lates

The school target is 96%

If there are any issues regarding attendance, please speak to us as soon as possible so that we can help!