



School Newsletter

4th May 2023

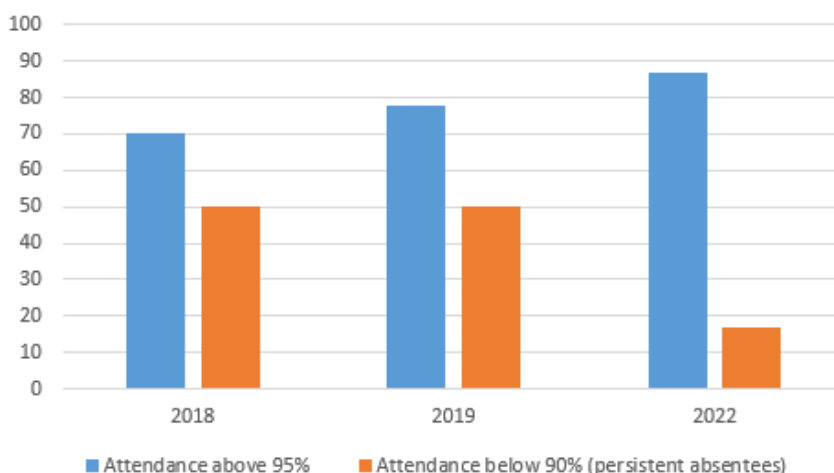


Attendance

I know that I have sent you several messages and reminders about our attendance policy this year, but this is an area as a school that we really need to work on. **We need your help with this!** Attendance at 95% or above is good; anything below that is not and will impact on a child's learning. 90% attendance is equivalent to missing one day a fortnight (or 20 days of school a year - that is one whole month of missed learning). 80% attendance is the same as having one day off a week (or 40 days/ 2 months of missed learning!). Learning in school is carefully planned and sequenced so having the odd day off here and there can be very difficult for a child to keep up in class.

Good attendance very closely correlates with good outcomes. Children who do not attend school regularly fall behind their peers and do not achieve as well as they should, impacting negatively on their life chances. This is evidenced by national, local and our school data. In the last three years of SATs at Walnut Tree Walk, the graph below shows the performance of children whose attendance was good (above 95%) compared with those who are persistent absentees (below 90%). As you can see, the gap between what children who attend school fully achieve compared to those who are frequently absent is stark. Last year only 17% of children at WTW whose attendance was below 90% achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths, making the transition to secondary school more challenging for them (compared to 87% for good attenders).

Percentage of children reaching the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths at the end of Year 6



In addition, children who regularly miss school can experience more difficulties with their confidence and wellbeing, including developing and maintaining friendships. **(continued on next page)**

Attendance (continued)

We will be starting to send out weekly texts to parents whose attendance is below 95% so that we can hopefully work together to improve this.

We are very aware that some absence is unavoidable meaning that in some individual circumstances reaching an attendance rate of 95% or above will not be possible. We know that in the majority of cases these absences will have been for genuine and unavoidable reasons. However, we hope that we can work together with all parents to reduce any unnecessary or unauthorised absences in order to give the children the best possible chance of success with their learning. Hopefully in this summer term there will be a lot less bugs going about which should help!

Dates for your Diary

May	<p>Mon 8th: Bank Holiday - school closed</p> <p>Tues 9th - Fri 12th: Y6 SATs week</p> <p>Fri 12th: Y3 (Emma/Ana) Assembly</p> <p>Mon 15th: Y6 bowling trip</p> <p>Wed 17th: School Photos</p> <p>Thurs 18th: Y3 to Roots & Shoots</p> <p>Fri 19th: Y1 (Peter) Class Assembly</p> <p>Fri 26th: Y3 (Talsia) Class Assembly</p> <p>Fri 26th: End of half term. School finishes at normal time.</p>
June	<p>Mon 5th: Children return to school</p> <p>Tues 6th: Whole school photo</p> <p>Thurs 8th: Year 4 at Into University</p> <p>Fri 9th: Y2 (Aimee) Class Assembly</p> <p>Sun 11th - Wed 14th: Year 6 to PGL</p> <p>Mon 12th: Y2A to Garden Museum</p> <p>Fri 16th: Year 5 Class Assembly</p> <p>Mon 19th: Y2J to Garden Museum</p> <p>Thurs 22nd: Y2 Joanne Assembly</p> <p>Fri 23rd: INSET Day - school closed</p> <p>Mon 26th: INSET Day - school closed</p> <p>Fri 30th: Nursery Assembly</p> <p>Fri 30th: Fun Day</p>
July	<p>Fri 7th: Reception Assembly</p> <p>Thurs 20th: Last day of term. School finishes at 1:45pm</p>

Messages

Fun Day

Our Annual Fun Day will be on Friday 30th June. The main part of this event will be from 3:30-7pm and we hope to see you all there. Further details will be sent out nearer the time including how you can help us to make this an enjoyable day whilst also raising money for the school. Support from parents and the PTFA again to source raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated.

SATs

Year 6 will be doing their SATs next week (Tuesday to Friday). Year 6 parents should have received a letter from me with further details including inviting them all to breakfast.

Year 2 are carrying out their SATs very informally over the next four weeks. These are done differently to the Year 6 SATs and we try to keep it as relaxed as possible so that the children do not feel pressured or worried by them.

Year 1 will have their Phonics Check in June and the Year 4 children will complete their Multiplication Check in June too.

Paying for Trips

We have now added a donation tab on Sco-pay where payments can be made for school trips if you do not want to pay in cash. If you do pay using this method, please let Sharon in the office know.

Parent Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to those of you who completed the parent questionnaire. We had our highest response rate with 138 forms returned to us.

We are delighted with the overwhelmingly positive feedback. However, we do not take this for granted and constantly strive to improve further.

100% of parents who responded said that they would recommend WTW to another parent, that the teaching in this school is good and that the school is well led and managed.

Your comments at the end of the form were also valued and much appreciated.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
My child is happy at this school	137	1	
My child feels safe at school	137		1
Behaviour in the school is good	132	1	5
The school makes me aware of what my child will be learning	135	3	
The school has high expectations for my child, expecting him or her to do their best	135	1	2
My child does well at this school	135	1	2
The school supports my child's wider personal development	133	1	4
The teaching in this school is good	138		
The school is well led and managed	138		
I would feel comfortable approaching the school with questions or a problem	137		1
I would recommend this school to another parent	138		

Three parents said that we do not make them aware of what the children will be learning. I understand that there has been some inconsistency in the weekly 'what we are doing in class' newsletters being emailed out. We will do our best to ensure that this happens every week from now on.

Our new Reception outdoor learning space in action

