



God is love, so we: Learn to Love; Love to Learn; Learn for Life

The Golden Rule

*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.
(Matthew 7:12).*

Friday 15th September

Dear parents

This week ...

It has been a lovely week in school and a real pleasure to see how well the children have settled back into school. At the start of term the staff refocused the children on 'The Colwich Way'. It's been lovely to see the children embrace this and demonstrate respect and kindness around school as well as showing they are ready to learn.

It has been a joy to see how well our new reception children have settled in. Mrs Chalkley and Mr Thomas have kept them very busy. I'm sure they are going to be sleeping well this weekend!



Celebration Worship

On Mondays we are continuing to celebrate our children's successes with 'Values awards' and 'Stars of the Week'. Alongside this, we also like to celebrate children's achievements outside of school. You can share your children's achievements

by either sending me a photo to share on a presentation or by sending the children into school with any medals, trophies and certificates they have earned. It may be a sporting achievement or other achievements such as: walking a long way, climbing a big hill, overcoming a fear, earning a Brownie badge, winning a competition, or raising money for charity.

Any photos should be sent to me by 8am Monday as worship is at 9am. We look forward to sharing in your children's achievements.

Stars of the Week

Well done to the children who were awarded 'Star of the Week' for their year groups:

Florence (Year 1), Milla-Rae (Year 2), Bella (Year 3), Molly (Year 4), Cassia (Year 5) and Lotty (Year 6).

Meet the Teachers

Just a reminder that we are holding our 'Meet the Teachers' sessions on **Monday 18th September**. During these sessions you will be able to go to your child's classroom, listen to a short presentation about the year from your child's teacher and ask any questions you may have. There will be a **4:00pm** session and a **4:30pm** session so that you don't miss out if you have more than one child in the school. For any parents that can't attend, presentations will be uploaded to the class webpages.

Miss Bentley and Miss Arnold will be in the Key stage 2 annex. For those with children in reception, please enter school through the gate where you drop your children off. If your children are in Mrs Gully's class and Mrs Slade-Nowell/Mrs Cope's class, please enter through the main door.





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Are you eligible for free school meals?



Parents claiming some benefits can claim free school meals for any of their children who are registered at a

Staffordshire school and who would normally be at school at lunch time. School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime and you can save yourself time and money.

Even if you don't want your children to have the meal, or they are in Key Stage 1 and receive one as part of the universal free school meals scheme, claiming helps our school. The more eligible parents who claim meals, the more funding we receive.

For every pupil registered with us as eligible under the entitlement criteria, the school will receive extra funding. This is called the pupil premium. It is used to help raise achievement levels.

So that our children can continue to benefit from this extra funding it is important that parents who do meet the criteria register. To check whether you are eligible, please click [HERE](#).

Focus on Attendance

The Department for Education is continuing to focus on improving attendance across all schools in the country following a national dip in attendance post-Covid.

Last year we worked hard to improve levels of attendance in school and our average whole school attendance was 96.1%. This was an improvement on the previous year and slightly higher than the national average. Thank you for your support in this.

Over the next few weeks, I will be highlighting different aspects of the policy as well as reporting on whole school attendance.

Attendance so far this term has been 99%.

This week's focus is: 'Attendance Benchmarks'.

The following benchmarks are used in schools to help understand the impact of poor school attendance on outcomes for learners.

Attendance 100%
Perfect, your child has every chance to succeed.
95%
Very good but your child has missed 10 school days over a year.
90%
Worrying, your child has missed 19 school days over a year. Your child will struggle to keep up. Legal action may be considered
85%
Poor, your child has missed 29 days over a year. Legal action may be considered.

Every session in school is important if your child is going to succeed and not fall behind. At primary school level, pupils missing just 14 days of school a year in Key Stage 2 are a quarter less likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths tests, than those children with no absence.

Research shows that the pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment. At KS2, pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% among those meeting the expected standard. Moreover, the overall absence rate of pupils not meeting the expected standard was higher than among those meeting the higher standard (4.7% compared to 2.7%).

For reference, the Trust's Attendance policy can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

Thank you for your continuing support in helping us to improve school attendance.





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Next week ...

Art Week

When reviewing our curriculum at the end of the last term we looked at how we taught art and decided that teaching it in a block rather than spread out across the term would be much more beneficial to the children. This means that most of the afternoon lessons next week will be art. All the children will be focusing on developing their drawing skills and will complete their unit with some portrait work. I'm looking forward to sharing examples of their work with you.

Tuesday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keyboard lessons <i>Led by Mrs Eccles (pm)</i>
Wednesday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guitar/vocal lessons <i>Led by Mr Moon (am)</i> Morning Prayers Year 3/4 (Miss Arnold) <i>(In Church 9.15: Parents welcome)</i> Forest School Lessons – Year 3/4B <i>Run by Miss Lilley (pm)</i> Forest School Club – Year 1/2 <i>3:20 – 4:30 run by Miss Lilley</i>
Thursday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violin lessons <i>Led by Ms Hayes (pm)</i>
Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hart School headteacher visit <i>Year 5/6</i>

DIARY DATES 2023/2022	
September	
18th	Welcome to Class Meetings <i>(Details on previous page)</i> Art Week <i>(Details to follow)</i>
20th	Y3/4 (Miss Arnold) Wednesday Prayers <i>(In Church, 9:15am – Parents Welcome)</i>
25th	Year 6 Bikeability <i>(Details sent last half-term)</i>
26th	Year 4 Bikeability <i>(Details sent last half-term)</i>
27th	Y3/4 (Miss Bentley) Wednesday Prayers <i>(In Church, 9:15am – Parents Welcome)</i>
29th	PTFA Sponsored Event <i>(See below)</i>

PTFA COLWICH KILOMETRE

PRIZE categories
 MOST RAISED PER YEAR GROUP
 FASTEST FINISH PER YEAR GROUP
 CLASS CELEBRATION FOR CLASS WHO RAISES THE MOST

SPONSORED FUN RUN
 Friday Sept 29th
 School Playing Field
3.40PM

Come & hop, skip, jump, walk or run a kilometre around our school playing field & raise money for playground equipment!

Please return sponsorship forms & monies raised by Monday 25th Sept

Raising money for playground equipment
 Your PTFA will be serving refreshments & cakes available to buy too

Best wishes

Miss Alison De Ste Croix
Headteacher





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SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2023-2024

Autumn Term 2023

Monday 4th September	PD day staff (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)
Tuesday 5th September	PD day staff (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)
Wednesday 6th September	Term starts
Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November	Half Term
Friday 22nd December	Term Ends

Spring Term 2024

Monday 8th January	Term Starts
Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February	Half Term
Friday 22nd March	Term Ends
Monday 25th March – Friday 5th April	Easter Holiday
Sunday 31st March	Easter Sunday

Summer Term 2024

Monday 8th April	Term Starts
Monday 6th May	May Day (SCHOOL CLOSED)
Friday 24th May	PD day staff (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)
Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May	Half Term
Monday 3rd June	PD day staff (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)
Friday 19th July	Term ends for pupils
Monday 22nd July	PD day staff (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)

