

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the first half term, I have spent time reflecting and sharing with pupils and staff the successes of the half term and the next steps for the remainder of the term.

Pupils: We are delighted with how well pupils have settled into their new routines. For some pupils a new school, class or key stage is a big change. Clear expectations from an early stage make all the difference and pupils for the vast majority of the time meet and often exceed these expectations. I have congratulated those pupils. There are areas where we will continue to support pupils:

- * Attendance
- * Uniform
- * Safeguarding

Attendance: Attendance for this half term is currently **91%**. Our ambition is for attendance to be consistently at **95%**. School has experienced a number of colds and viruses doing the rounds, which has impacted on attendance. There will be an increasing focus on pupil attendance next half term. This will include recognising excellent attendance and providing support for those pupils whose attendance is a cause for concern. School is also conscious that for some pupils, medical appointments can contribute to absence. This will be taken into account when sending 'Excellent Attendance' postcards.

The arrangements and responses to requests for holidays during term time remains the same:

There is no longer any provision for 'holidays' in the regulations.

How to request time off for your child

If you need to take your child out of school during term time, you'll need to submit a written request to the Head Teacher and the School's Governing Body in advance of the leave being taken. They will consider if your circumstances are 'exceptional' and let you know if your request has been approved. *Please note that holidays are not considered as exceptional circumstances.*

If you take your child out of school without approval for the purposes of a holiday, the absence will be recorded as **unauthorised**.

If the unauthorised absence for the purposes of a holiday covers ten school register sessions (i.e. five school days) or more, the local authority may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) to **each of the child's parents or carers** at the request of the Head Teacher or School Governing Body.

Penalty charges will be £160 if paid within 28 days reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days **per parent/carers per child.**

The National Framework for Penalty Notices has a national limit of two penalty notices that can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling three-year period. If a second Fixed Penalty

Notice is issued to the same parent for the same child, within three years of the first Fixed Penalty Notice, the second Fixed Penalty Notice is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.

Once two Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued, if a third unauthorised leave of absence occurs within a three-year period, the Local Authority is able to move to prosecution immediately.



Headteacher: Mr M. McCann

Uniform: School uniform is of importance at Greenbank because it creates a sense of identity, belonging and pride; Promotes equality and supports behaviour and positive attitudes. I have thanked the vast majority of pupils who attend school in uniform- it is noticeable and makes a difference. However, in the last few weeks there has been an increase in the number of pupils wearing non-school uniform clothing- particularly sweatshirts, jumpers and trainers that are not black. I have also spoken with pupils about the wearing of hats and coats in class. Hats and coats are perfectly acceptable for outdoor break, lunch and when out on visits but NOT in class during lessons.

The school uniform is already very flexible and detailed on the school website. There is therefore an expectation that these minimum standards are maintained. If you do have particular challenges around school uniform, please contact your child's class tutor. I am confident we will be able to find a positive outcome.

<https://www.greenbankschool.org/page/school-uniform/144102>

We are also collecting an increasing number of 'lost' jumpers. We can reunite clothing with their owners if names are written inside on labels, otherwise it is difficult.

Safeguarding forms the very focus of everything we do at school. Recently we have discovered that some pupils have been using their phones outside of school to take pictures of other pupils without their permission or consent. The risk is these pictures can then be used inappropriately. All devices are handed in when pupils arrive at school. I have told pupils to-day that phones are not to be used when walking into school from taxis at the start of the day and not to be used when leaving school until they are on their taxi. They have also been reminded about appropriate use. Where a child has not been using their phone or device safely, school will take the device and immediately contact families to inform them of the incident and put in strong safeguarding measures to protect all concerned.

Apologies- this letter does seem to be a bit of a moan, but I have the school and your child's best interests at heart. There are so many aspects of school life that have been fantastic and I do share these events with pupils, staff and families.

Hello from Residential : I would like to congratulate the Wednesday boys who have successfully taken part in a work experience placement at Lostock Gralam train station. Whilst there they have created a flower bed commemorating the 200years of modern railway. The group worked really hard digging out all the area, creating a master piece that can be shared with all visiting the station. They even had a mention in the Lostock Parish Council newsletter. Well done Boys!

I would also like to thank the staff who organised the work experience and spent each week working with them. Have a good weekend!

Charlene and the Residential Team

Have a safe weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr McCann
Head Teacher



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