



Wednesday 9th January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

A happy new year to you all, I hope that you all had a peaceful Christmas and that Father Christmas delivered everything you wished for!

I just wanted to fill you in with some general information.

Punctuality and Attendance

As a school we continue to try to improve our punctuality and attendance rates, like every school in the country we are judged by the Council and the Government on this data. Our school target set by the Educational Welfare Officer is 96%, last term our overall attendance rate was 95.3%. For safeguarding reasons, please can I ask that if your child is off school poorly, please notify the school office on the first day of absence either by text or a telephone call. If we don't hear from you it means that the office staff then spend time trying to telephone you or text you. As far as punctuality is concerned; there are some parents who regularly bring their child to school late, I would like to remind you that school starts at 8.55 a.m. Below is some important information regarding research that I have previously shared with you.

Attendance Research

Attending school every day = 100% attendance.

Attending 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ days a week = 90% attendance = 4 weeks missed per year

Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = more than half a term missed per year or 2 full years missed over the course of their school career.

Attending 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ days each week = 70% attendance = more than a quarter of the school year missed.

An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole 2 years from school.

Punctuality Research

Being late for school reduces learning time.

If your child is 5 minutes late every day they will miss three days of learning each year.

If your child is 15 minutes late every day they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year.

School Website

Our school website www.stpaulspeelh.co.uk contains lots of information about school, including newsletters, diary dates, a photographic gallery and lots more information.

Winter Weather

January can be the month where we encounter spells of snow, so I thought it best to remind you of any procedures we have in place. If our school has to close due to snow, all parents will be notified via the school website or text message as soon as the decision has been made that the site is not safe for children or the ratio of staff: pupils is not adequate. However, we will ALWAYS try and keep the school open wherever possible. All of Salford's school closures can also be found on the following website:

<http://www.salford.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-closures/>

Payments

Thank you to the 52% of you that have registered to pay via parent pay, this is a very efficient way for you to pay for school lunches, breakfast club, toast, milk and any trips.

Please can I ask that just like paying in advance for milk and toast that parents who wish their child(ren) to attend breakfast club and/or have a school meal start to pay for these in advance too.

Breakfast Club

For the safety of all pupils, can parents dropping their child(ren) off at Breakfast Club drop them off inside the door of Breakfast Club and not allow them to enter school grounds unaccompanied.

Email Addresses

To receive update notifications when letters/messages are posted on our website, we require an email address from parents, if you haven't already given us your email address please can you do so asap, to ensure that you are receiving the latest news from school.

School Uniform

To avoid any discrimination, we have a school uniform policy and as a primary school it is your responsibility to ensure that your child(ren) adheres to this policy. Please can I remind parents that only completely black shoes should be worn and that also for health and safety purposes acrylic nails should not be worn for school.

Miss Marsh - Year 3 Teacher Thursday/Friday

Miss Marsh has been teaching in Year 3 since September, but due to personal reasons has taken the sad decision to leave school. I would like to thank her for her hard work in school since September. Mrs Ashby, will be teaching the class on a Thursday and Friday from 17th January.

Home Learning

We have purchased web based programs that you are able to access at home:

Phonics Play contains games and activities to help your child learn their phonics and help improve spellings

Espresso contains hundreds of activities and videos and is updated once a week

T.T. Rockstars Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils have their own individual username and password

See your child's class teacher for these passwords.

I would like to thank you for all your support and cooperation in all these matters. If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact myself or a member of my senior leadership team; Mrs Ward, Mrs Williams or Mrs Barker.

Yours sincerely,

J.Barker

Headteacher