**A cold start to 2025!**

It seems like Christmas was a long time ago, but our children have settled back into school and are working hard despite the disrupted start to the year due to the weather. We have had staff absences, and I am very grateful to all the staff and supply staff who have ensured consistency for the children.

We are delighted that we now have Miss Bond working in the office alongside Mrs Howarth who is now back with us. They make a terrific team. Thankyou for your patience with us before Christmas when Mrs Lawson and I were the office staff (and nowhere near as efficient!)

**Dates for your diary**

Next week- Children’s Mental Health Week. The children will be taking part in activities in school to support this

**Thursday 6th Feb**- Big Emotions. Drop your child off then come and attend this session on Dealing with Big Emotions. Everyone has Mental Health and looking after your child’s Mental Health has never been so important. This session is based on the 5 ways to wellbeing and will give you tips and advice on how to support your child’s mental health. It will look at resources that promote positive mental health and easy techniques you can use to build resilience. To book your place, contact the school office so we have an idea of numbers

**Friday 7th Feb** – Number Day. A celebration of maths in school. Wear any maths related clothing (numbers, shapes or patterns!) with an optional donation of £1 to the NSPCC.

**Tue 11th Feb**- Fire Service in for a session with Y5

**Wednesday 12th Feb**- Reception, Y1 and Y2 trip to Imagine That.

**Thursday 13th Feb**- Y4 trip to Liverpool

**Friday 14th Feb**- Own clothes Day for £1 donation to school funds. Finish at normal time for half term.

HPAN- the Halton Primary Arts Network exhibition will be up in Runcorn Shopping City from **10th to 28th February**. Make sure to look out for our display if you are over that way!

Advance notice- Parents Evening will be on **Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th March**. More details to follow.

**Clothes give away**

Following on the success of this last year we will once again be holding a uniform give away on **Tuesday 25th February**. If you have any good quality uniform (no stains, rips etc.) which no longer fits your child then please donateit to school on the Monday or Tuesday after half term. Check those summer dresses! We are particularly happy to receive any older age clothes as we have a shortage of these in school in case of emergencies. We will be opening the hall at the end of the school day for you to come in and help yourselves to any uniform that your child could use. Bring a bag and help the environment and your pocket. No charge though donations to school fund are welcome.

**Term dates for next academic year.**

We have had parents asking about our holidays for 2025-26. Our dates for next academic year have now been set and are on the school website. The office can also provide a copy on request. School will start for children on Wednesday 3rd September. If you are planning holidays, please bear these dates in mind as holidays in school time cannot be authorised.

**Reminders:**

Just a little reminder that only school cardigans, jumpers or hoodies should be worn on PE days with the school PE top. Please contact us if you are having any difficulties with uniform and we will do what we can to help.

**Help and support**

Margaret Gorst, our school nurse runs a drop-in clinic at school on the last Wednesday of every month for help with sleep, fussy eating, anxiety etc.

Please apply for free school meals if you think that you may qualify, even if your child is in KS1. School benefits from extra funding in this way, and you may get food vouchers for school holidays. Link is here.

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/Schools/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx>

If any families are in need, we can refer you to foodbank. Please let us know if you need this help at any time.

**Attendance and punctuality**

As you know, we have been hit with a variety of illnesses this term. Hopefully, half term will give everyone a chance to recover so that our attendance is back up in February. A reminder that you must contact school on every day that your child is absent, so that we know they are safe, and if we do not hear from you, we will contact you or call out to the house. We recently had a visit from a quality assurance officer from Halton who commended us for our ‘first response’ procedures.

Our whole school attendance for January: 89.11 %

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| --- |
| Reception 90.67% |
| Year 1 84.39% |
| Year 2 91.22% |
| Year 3 91.86% |
| Year 4 91.56% |
| Year 5 84.69% |
| Year 6 89.39% |

Lateness is becoming an issue for a few of our children. Please remember that this is treated in the same way as absence and if it is a regular occurrence, the education Welfare Officer will contact you.

**School Dinners**

Following up on comments from a few parents I have met with Orian, our school meal providers and passed on your views regarding portion size. We have had a new cook since Christmas who is ‘learning the ropes’ so managers are calling in regularly. Please remember to order dinners and packed lunches online, and to cancel them if your child is absent.

**Parental Questionnaire**

Thank you to those parents who have completed the school questionnaire. If you have missed it, it can be completed here.

<https://forms.gle/5VRvqVAD5TAwDZrv5> until the end of the weekend. Following this we will look at the results, take on board any comments and let you know how we hope to improve.

**Mrs. McCann**