

HEADLINES...

• Issue 4/ April 2016

Many exciting events have been happening over the past term. We have seen the arrival of 10 fluffy chicks that hatched to great excitement in Foundation Stage. Lots of children in the school took the opportunity, alongside our youngest children, to observe the chicks grow over the course of the week which caused great excitement. Children in Year 4 have visited Cadbury World as part of their learning on Roahl Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.' This week, some children in school performed alongside other NPAT schools at the Dergate, something that the school will take a much bigger part of in the future. Lots has been achieved and the children continue to work hard to achieve their best. I hope that you will be able to join me on 13 June for the termly Parent Forum, when we will be talking about our new approach to the curriculum. Further details to follow. *Darren*

Upcoming dates:

- 29 April – Spring Term Reports (Y1,Y3,Y4,Y5)
- 2 May – School Closed Bank Holiday
- 4 May – Pamper Evening
- 12 May – Bags 2 School collection
- 30 May–3 June – School Closed End of Term 5
- 6 June – School Re-Opens
- 10 June – Queen's birthday celebrations
- 13 June – Parent forum 2pm & 6pm
- 15 June - New parents - Nursery
- 16 June – New parents - Reception

Changes to leave of absence requests and consequences

Attached to this edition of Headlines is the local authority's revised approach to leave of absence during term time. Previously parents have been fined if they take their child out of school for 10 consecutive days. **The new guidance is that parents will be fined if their child is absent for 5 consecutive days.** Please note that Headlands Primary School will comply with the local authority on this matter. (All leave of absence requests are at the discretion of the Head Teacher and only awarded in exceptional circumstances). Any requests exceeding 5 days will be subject to a penalty notice with immediate effect.

Reports will be out on Friday for Years 1,3,4,5

Your child's termly report will be issued on Friday of this week for Years 1,3,4,5. However, I have asked teachers in Year 2 and 6 to put all of their energies into supporting the children to achieve their potential in the national tests and so their reports will be published next term when the results are known. Now that levels are no longer being used nationally, there is a narrative to describe how your child is progressing in school. Next year we will review how and when TLCs are and when reports are issued to parents.

Year 4 visit Cadbury World

The children enjoyed their visit to Cadbury World last week. They saw the manufacturing process. They also gained an understanding of the history of chocolate and how the cocoa bean gets transformed into a chocolate bar. The children were excellent ambassadors for Headlands and reported that they had an amazing time!



Behaviour and making sure that everyone is safe and happy

It is of paramount importance that your child is happy and safe in school to enable them to enjoy and make progress with their learning. I am pleased to say that I continue to be highly impressed with how children look after and support each other in class and around school and thankfully incidents of inappropriate behaviour are rare. Nonetheless, as with all schools, incidents do occur and we have tightened up how such incidents are reported and how you, the parents, are communicated to about such incidents. Also as a staple each year, we will revisit the school's anti bullying and e safety approach. We have recently spoken to the children about what bullying is and we define it as 'STOP', something that happens Several Times On Purpose, and that if children feel that this is happening, that they should 'STOP', Start Telling Other People. Those people being trusted adults such as their parents or teachers. We reminded the children that bullying could be physical, emotional, name calling or cyber. This week the children will be spoken to about e safety, and as always, especially with our older children, we would strongly encourage parents to constantly monitor their child's electronic devices. Our STOP posters (below) are displayed in every classroom. Please discuss them with your child to ensure that they know what to do if they have a concern.

S Several
T Times
O On
P Purpose

What is bullying?

S Start
T Telling
O Other
P People

What to do if you feel that you are being bullied

We will be celebrating the Queen's official birthday in school on Friday 10th June with a street party. Children will be asked to wear red, white and blue on this day. Details to follow.

DON'T FORGET: PARENT FORUM 13TH JUNE AT 2PM AND 6PM



And finally...

We thought that you might like to see a couple of photographs of the chicks that hatched in Reception recently. Thank you to Mrs Worrell for setting up a live feed on her blog that I know parents in Reception appreciated. They are an icon of springtime. At the same time, Nursery played host to hens and the children have been fascinated by what they have seen. We were hopeful of an egg being laid but as yet one has not appeared.





Northamptonshire County Council

Please ask for: Jonathan Lewis
Tel: 01604 367960
Our ref:
Your ref:
Date: 25th April 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

The county council and its schools are very keen for all pupils in Northamptonshire to have the very best educational outcomes that are possible. Northamptonshire is currently under performing against to this expectation and following the launch of our 'Race To The Top' programme, we are reviewing all areas of how our schools perform to ensure this aspiration is met.

School attendance is a key area. In line with government expectations, the council firmly believes that for pupils to progress and achieve their full potential that they need to attend school. Changes to legislation in 2013 mean parents are no longer entitled to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must only be in exceptional circumstances and the headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional and warrant the granting of leave. Headteachers would not be expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional.

In Northamptonshire, the autumn term 2013 and spring term 2014, there were 39,672 days missed from primary schools and 57,781 days from secondary schools without permission. To date, despite changes in government legislation in 2013, the council has only chosen to issue a penalty notice after 10 days unauthorised absence. However to achieve our aspiration for the very best educational outcomes, we are proposing to issue penalties when children miss five consecutive school days or the equivalent of 5 days within a six week period from June 2016. This brings Northamptonshire in line with the majority of other Local Authorities.

The attached leaflet explains the policy and procedure in more detail and if you have any queries please contact the Educational and Inclusion Partnerships team at the following email address attendance-admin@northamptonshire.gov.uk

I realise that the vast majority of parents do not take family holidays in term time as they recognise the significant impact this can have on their child's education. We hope you will continue to support us by not planning a leave of absence during term time.

I am sure you will be supportive of this decision which along with a range of other measures should lead to improvements in educational attainment and life chances for all pupils.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Lewis
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Educational Inclusion and Partnership Team
A Brief Guide to Penalty Notices
Sections 444 Education Act 1996
Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
Crime and Disorder Act 1998

NCC have changed its timescales for issuing Penalty Notices (PN) for unauthorised absence from school. This leaflet offers you a brief summary about the (PN) scheme and what it could mean for you.

What is a PN?

A penalty Notice is an alternative to prosecution and required the parent(s) to pay a fixed amount as a fine for their child's irregular attendance and avoid a court appearance.

It is issued per parent, per child. Please note **only** a Head Teacher can authorise absence from school.

Who issues them?

In Northamptonshire the Local Authority issues them through the Educational Inclusion and Partnership team

When are they used?

When a pupil has a minimum of 10 school sessions (5 days consecutive) recorded as unauthorised in a 6 school week period; a school day is two sessions AM and PM.

This includes; any absence marked in the register as unauthorised.

Persistent late arrival at school after the register has been taken and is recorded as an unauthorised absence.

An absence in term time which has not been authorised by the Head Teacher. The Government has directed Head Teachers may only grant leave in exceptional circumstances.

PNs can also be used during the first 5 days of exclusion. Parents are made aware of the consequences by letter when a child is excluded from school.

Please note

If the school refers a period of absence that is longer than 15 consecutive school days; the Educational and Inclusion Partnership team may consider a PN is not appropriate.

In these instances the matter may proceed to a prosecution.

Determination about whether it is appropriate to use a penalty notice will be based on the individual circumstances of each case.

If a parent knows that their child is failing to attend school regularly and there is reasonable justification for not ensuring that their child attends then it is for the parents/carers to prove that reasonable justification.

How much is the PN?

The PN is issued with an invoice for £120 and 28 days are given for you to settle the Penalty.

If the PN is paid within the first 21 days the amount payable is reduced to £60.

How do I pay?

The information on how to pay is included on the PN. Payment cannot be made in part or by installments.

What happens if I don't pay?

If you don't pay within the 28 days the Authority will consider instigating a prosecution in the Magistrates Court for the offence of poor school attendance. If proven this could result in a fine of up to £1000 per parent per child and/or a parenting order or a community service order and also costs.

Can I appeal?

There is no statutory right of appeal once a Notice has been issued.

Can I be prosecuted if I pay the Fixed Penalty Notice?

You cannot be prosecuted for the period of absence identified in the Fixed Penalty Notice. You may subsequently be prosecuted for further periods of unauthorised absence from school. Each case is considered on an individual basis

**** REMEMBER ****

School staff would much rather work with parents/carers to resolve poor attendance than resort to enforcement actions like Fixed Penalty Notices or Court

For further information please contact

Educational Inclusion & Partnership Team
attendance-admin@northamptonshire.gov.uk

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/EducationandLearning/Parents/Attend/Pages/truancy.aspx>