



Our school value this half term is: "Compassion"

'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience'

Colossians 3.12

Notices

Parents Evening

We are holding parents evening in school on **Wednesday 16th November** for parents to see their child's teacher and view work. Appointment request slips have been sent home with the children today and should be returned by Thursday 10th November. If you have not received a slip but would like to make an appointment, please contact the school office.

Attendance

Attendance is a crucial part of every child's education. On page two you can see further details of the importance of punctuality and attendance in a letter written at the end of last academic year. At parents' evening, you will also be given an update on your child's punctuality and attendance. It is important to note that any children falling below **90%** are classed as persistent absentees.

Christmas Nativities

As we start the second half of the autumn term, we are now preparing for our Christmas Nativities. Below are details of attendance at the events. As Covid-19 restrictions have currently eased we are planning for the following arrangements:

Reception – *Friday 9th December at 9:15am* – held at school. Parents of children in Reception will be able to request up to 4 tickets.

KS1 – *Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th December at 2:00pm* – held at school. Parents of children in Years 1 and 2 can request 2 tickets for each performance.

Following the KS1 performance children will return to class. Families attending are invited to remain in the hall for a coffee and a mince pie until 3:15pm when our choir will perform. Children will leave school as normal at 3:30pm.

KS2 – *Monday 12th December at 6:00pm* - held in Christ Church. For the evening performance, families of children in KS2 are invited to attend church at 6:00pm.

Up and coming dates for your diary

For the full list of dates for the Autumn Term click [here](#)

Tuesday 8th November—Nasal Flu Vaccine

Monday 14th November—Odd Socks Day

Wednesday 16th November—Parents Evening

Friday 18th November—Children In Need

Thursday 1st December—PHA Cinema Night

Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th December—KS1 Nativity

Friday 9th December—Reception Nativity

Friday 9th December—Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 12th December—KS2 Nativity in church

Wednesday 14th December—Christmas Dinner

Friday 16th December—School closes at 2pm

Remembrance

Poppies will be on sale for a small donation next week. We will be holding a special assembly in school for the children on Friday 11th November.



Antibullying Week

As part of Antibullying Week, on Monday 14th November children are invited to attend school wearing odd socks to recognise the uniqueness and individuality of us all.

Children In Need

On Friday 18th November, children may come to school wearing their own clothes and a bobble hat in return for a donation to this very important cause.



Christmas Dinner

On Wednesday 14th December we will be having Christmas dinner in school. If you would like your child to have a Christmas dinner, please tick the appropriate date on the menu and return it to school as soon as possible in order to secure a meal on the day. For Juniors, please provide £2.40 payment with your menu (Infants are free but still require a menu). As our caterer must be given numbers in advance, **we can only accept orders until Friday 25th November.**

Macmillan



Thank you for your donations to our Macmillan Coffee Morning in October, a fantastic total of **£287.20** was raised. We would also like to say a big thank you to our Parent Helpers Association for their support with this event.

Attendance

I am also asking for your support in improving whole school attendance and punctuality as we move into the next academic year. Everyone has received their child's attendance as part of their school report. It is important to acknowledge that, in our school, many children have very high attendance. Indeed, if your child has attained **97%** or above, their attendance is in line with our target and is **outstanding attendance this year**. We also understand that there are reasons for absence on occasion and we will always work with families who have specific concerns and ensure we can overcome barriers together. During the COVID pandemic it was necessary for pupils and families to isolate if they or a close contact tested positive. That is not now the case and it is essential that we take a whole school approach to return to our previous positive attendance rates.

The impact upon children's education through lost learning is huge. At a time when so much education has been disrupted it is vital that we make every school minute count. I urge you to ensure that your child is in school and on time every day to prevent anyone falling behind with their learning. Persistent cases where poor attendance and punctuality do not improve can be considered to be **neglect**.

Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of **90%** or below is persistent absence which will be closely monitored by school staff. Failing to improve on this **90%** can lead to prosecution, which school want to help families avoid.

This year our whole school attendance has been **94.71 %**. There are clearly differing reasons for this and one of our priorities is to ensure we meet our usual high standards and set targets as we head into next year.

Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School has set a whole school attendance **target** which is **97%** as, before the pandemic our attendance rates were always consistently between **97% and 98 %**. There are things you can do to improve your child's attendance and avoid falling into the persistent absence category. It is important to remember that any time out of school can lead to fines and prosecution.

If your child is unwell and you are unsure whether to send them to school, contact the office to seek advice on 01695 421391

Avoid taking any holidays during term times. NO holidays will be authorised. We will again be applying our strict policies which **include fines** for taking holidays in term time. It is Government law that holidays cannot be approved by the Headteacher in term time. All families are asked to **not book any holidays during term time** for the up and coming school year. Keep up to date with what percentage attendance your child has so that you know if they are at risk of persistent absence (office staff will provide this for you). Speak to school staff with any concerns. Talk to your child about the importance of them being in school and let them know how important you feel it is. The table below provides an example of the impact of lost learning through pupil absence:

Attendance % over a school year	Equal to number of days absent	Converted to approximate weeks of absence	Approximate number of lessons missed	School Concern Level
95%	9.5	2	47.5	Pupil can catch up and still succeed
90%	19	4	95	Poor attendance We are concerned
80%	38	8	190	Very poor attendance We are very concerned
70%	57	12	285	Serious concerns

* So a child who has an absence percentage of 80% has missed 38 days of school and has missed 190 lessons.

Punctuality is also highly important. Pupils who arrive late to school are not only losing learning but also disrupting the learning of others as they arrive late for lessons. Pupils do not like being late into school and we witness how upsetting it can be for them. We want to prevent this. Our school doors open at 8:45 am to allow children to become settled and begin their learning. They **MUST** be in school for 8:55am for the start of registration. The table below provides an example of the impact of lost learning through pupil lateness.

Number of minutes late per day over a school year	Approximate equivalent number of days lost learning
5	3
10	6.5
15	10
20	13

We also want to help families get their child to school on time. Here are some things you can try:

- Have everything you/your child needs for school prepared the night before
- Ensure that your child goes to bed reasonably so they are not too tired to get up in the morning
- Ensure your child has a good night's sleep by minimising their use of devices at bed time
- Have a consistent bedtime routine for your child
- Set an alarm to allow plenty of time for your morning routine in getting to school on time
- Bring your child to breakfast club (8:00am – 8.45am).

At Aughton Christ Church Primary school, we will be informing you of your child's **attendance** and **punctuality** at **parents evening** and in **termly letters**. We will always work with families regarding any concerns about attendance or any potential barriers so I ask anyone with concerns to contact me.

Thank you for your support.