

Boney Hay Community Primary School

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Newsletter: October 2016

Attendance:

Week ending 16.09.16 (Overall:95.2 %)

1 st =	Y3	99.17%
1 st =	Y5	99.17%
3rd	Rec	97.73%
3rd	Y1	97.60%
5th	Y4	94.29%
6th	Y2	94.00%
7th	Y6	92.94%

Week ending 23.09.16 (Overall:97.6 %)

1st	Y1	99.2%
2 nd =	Y5	98.33%
2 nd =	Y3	98.33%
4th	Y2	98.00%
5th	Y4	97.60%
6th	Y6	92.8%
7th	Rec	92.27%

School Attendance to date: 97.34%

Our target is 96%

Holidays in Term Time:

Following the Isle of Wight Case, Staffordshire have said that :

"Penalty notices may now only be issued to parents when a child has 10 days or more unauthorised absence over two half terms in a row."

I have been pleased with parents taking fewer term time holidays and, as has been proved, attendance at school has a direct link to your child's achievement. Attendance was one of our key issues for Ofsted, so thank you so much for your continued commitment to your child's attendance.



Our Attendance Policy is available on our website and it is possible for you to request a copy from the school office. May I remind you that from September, we have been advised that:

- All children with attendance of below 95% will receive an initial concern letter.
- If a child has erratic attendance or falls below 85% then we will need written evidence of any medical absences before they can be authorised.
- Arrivals between 8.55am and 9.10 will be given a Late mark.
- Arrivals at school after the registers have closed at 9.10am, receive a U code which counts as an unauthorised absence. (This doesn't apply when your child has a medical appointment before school.)
- 20 half days of unauthorised absence , including late marks after the register has closed, will result in a persistent absence penalty notice being issued by the EWO.

The above measures are not ones that have been implemented by the school, but are the Department for Education's requirements. Regular attendance at school ensures your child meets their full potential and parents have a duty to ensure that children are in school daily.

Reception Parents' and Carers' Lunch

We would like to invite all parents and carers of Reception children to join us for lunch on Thursday 6th October. It is an Italian Day with Pizza or Macaroni Cheese. Please order your meals from the office by Tuesday 4th October at a cost of £2.52 each. Your child doesn't need to order their dinner until the day. We hope to see as many of you as possible!

Jeans for Genes:

A huge thank you to everyone for your magnificent support on Genes for Jeans Day! It was lovely to see all the children in their jeans/denim and we raised a fabulous £167.

This money will be used to support children with genetic disorders and is a charity very close to the hearts of several staff members. During the day, the children experienced a range of activities and worked with all teachers. As Stephen Sutton used to say, " We put fun into fundraising!"

Thank you again.

Harvest Festival

This will be held on Friday 7th October at 9.15am and will be led by our Reception and Infant children. All parents and carers are most welcome to attend. This year we will again be supporting the Trussell Trust Foodbanks. Foodbanks give emergency supplies to families in crisis who can be referred through their GP, Social Services or Welfare Officers. There are many families in the Burntwood area who have benefitted from this in the past year and I am sure you will want to show your support again. Children will be bringing home a list of appropriate foods that can be donated and it would be fantastic to hand over a significant amount to the charity.



Parents' Evening

This will be held on Tuesday 18th October between 4 and 7 pm. Letters and Appointment requests have been attached to this newsletter. Please return as soon as possible. Appointments are allocated on a first come first served basis. In order to make the appointment more meaningful we ask that, wherever possible, children do not accompany you to school. If you do need to bring your child, they will be asked to wait with Mrs Mees . Thank you!

Homework

Many parents ask about the homework we set, so I hope that this will help!

Children in Key Stage 2 work in groups on Mondays for the teaching of Reading and Spelling. They are given spellings to learn each week for a test on Friday. Please make sure your child does this as that is the only way they are going to make good progress. They should also be reading with you at least three times a week so as to become more fluent. In addition to this, their classteacher may set other work related to the learning in class. We would encourage you to support them in this learning and advise the teacher if there are any problems.

In Years 1 and 2 the children are also given spellings to learn and will be tested weekly. Reading books are sent home which are to be shared with your child. Again reading with your child at least three times a week will foster a love of reading and accelerate progress. Mr Potter and Miss Walmsley-Lycett will also set other tasks to be completed at home which may vary from research to bringing things in to support a topic.

In Reception, Mrs Paddock sends home the Learning Journey books for parents to share experiences and work on school based tasks. These are proving to be a very successful means of communication for our youngest pupils.

We also have our exciting Family Homework Projects and love to see the results!

The children are recording homework in their planners which should be in school each day and taken home each evening. Please feel free to use these to communicate with your classteacher. Thank you for all your continued support - it really does make a difference.