



## WELCOME TO OUR PASTORAL TEAM NEWSLETTER

**Location:** The Pastoral Team are based in The Arches, next to the ball park

**Visiting times:** You are always welcome to drop by and speak to any one of us during the morning drop off or afternoon pick up. In addition you can make appointments to speak with us during the school day by calling the school office.

### **Meet the team:**

Miss Evans – Pastoral Leader

Mr Bassra and Miss Aqil – Learning Mentors



The Pastoral Team are here to provide information on a wide range of services, including food banks and guidance on safeguarding, attendance or our Restorative Practice procedures. We are also available to help with more personal issues or concerns related to any aspect of your home situation.

Your well-being and that of your family are important to us and we are here to listen and assist in any way we can. We look forward to being of service so please do not hesitate to reach out.

### Coffee Mornings



The Pastoral Team hold regular coffee mornings every half term! Why don't you look out for our next one and join us? We would love to hear your thoughts on what it is you really want or need from the pastoral team or from school as a whole. This is your chance to really help us streamline our help for you.

So please look out for the next coffee morning coming soon. everyone is welcome!

### Attendance

Statistics show that children who attend school regularly and on time tend to do better both academically and socially. We are aiming for 96% + for all our pupils as this is what is required for them to reach their full potential. If we look at learning and knowledge as a Jenga, without all of the building blocks in place then it can't stand anymore. This is the same with education, every day your child learns something new and this is really important to build the all-round knowledge they will need for now and later on in life.

We completely understand that sometimes children get poorly but we'd like to ask you to evaluate if your child really is **too** poorly to come to school? **or** could you give them a spoon of paracetamol and send them in? We have first aiders in school and are happy to call you if we think that they are not coping. We believe that working together with parents is the best way to improve attendance and outcomes for our children.

Please try and make any appointments out of school time or if it is absolutely necessary then please ensure your child is in school before and/or after any appointment. If another member of the family has an appointment to attend, you must make alternative arrangements for someone to collect or bring your child to or from school.





Being on time for school is equally as important as regular attendance. As you can see above late minutes soon add up to a lot of missed learning.

***The school doors open at 8:45am and close at 8:55am, after this time you will need to take your child/ren through the front entrance and log them in as late, this is a safeguarding measure to ensure your child/ren are accounted for should there be a fire or emergency situation.***

### Impact on learning hours over one academic year

<b>100% Attendance</b>	0 Days Missed	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
<b>95% Attendance</b>	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	<b>SATISFACTORY</b>
<b>90% Attendance</b>	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	<b>POOR</b>
<b>85% Attendance</b>	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	<b>UNACCEPTABLE</b>
<b>80% Attendance</b>	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	<b>UNACCEPTABLE</b>
<b>75% Attendance</b>	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	<b>UNACCEPTABLE</b>

For some parents 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly four school weeks.



We appreciate the challenges that some parents face if they have family living abroad and an emergency arises. However, please keep in mind that the school does not authorise holidays regardless of whether a contract has been completed or not unless there are proven exceptional circumstances, that has been authorised by the Head of School. If you are planning to take your child abroad during time-term you must complete a leave request form. These can be collected from the school office.

During the last academic year we issued over **80 penalty notices** for non-school attendance. This has resulted in parents either receiving a fine or their case being heard in court. Please be reminded that school attendance is compulsory, your child must only be absent if they are too unwell to attend or there are exceptional circumstances.

### **Fast-Track**

'FAST-TRACK to Attendance' is an Early Help approach to improving pupil attendance and is used across schools in Birmingham by the Education Legal Intervention Team (ELIT). Your child may be placed onto this process if they are persistently absent (i.e. attendance is below 90%), particularly if these absences are unauthorised. Non-improvement of attendance may lead to penalty notices being issued to parents; in severe cases (especially children who have a history of poor attendance) ELIT will consider court proceedings.

The school is committed to improving pupil attendance and would much prefer to work with parents to achieve this and avoid taking the above route. Our Pastoral Leader Miss Evans is always here to talk to you should you need any support, or would just like to discuss any barriers your experiencing getting your child into school. She can be contacted on the school number.