

9th February 2024

Dear Parents,

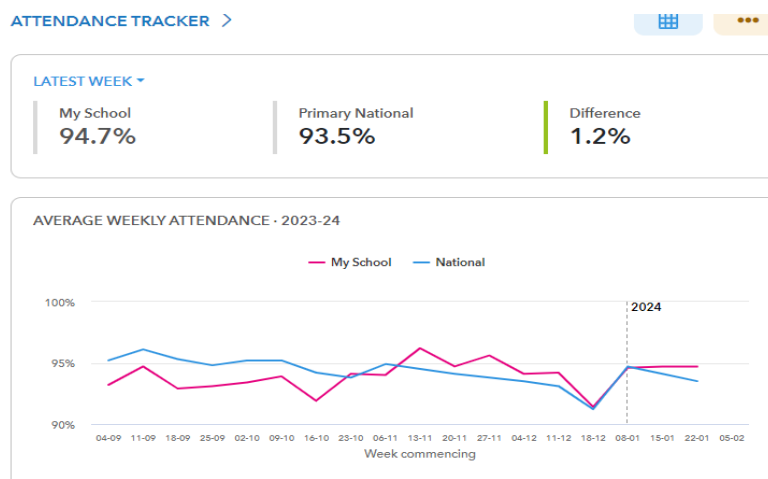
Attendance

Wow! I wanted to start by saying a huge thank you to everyone for your continued support in our mission to improve attendance. As can be seen below, data shows that we are no longer below the national average and have sustained this improvement over time. We simply cannot do this without you and we are very proud of what we have achieved together.

Today our next round of Smyths Toys gift card winners will be selected from class HEROS boxes by Junior Leaders in assembly. We will be awarding a second gift card to the most improved attenders this half term in each class. Good luck everyone and remember to check Facebook later to see our winners!

We also know that there are still improvements to make. We know, for example, that attendance on a Friday is far worse than any other day. Between half term and Easter, we will be launching our Friday Stars initiative. Every child who is in school for each Friday, (23rd February, 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd March), will earn a certificate and small treat in school on 22nd March. Let's see if **we can** work together to improve Friday attendance.

Can I also just remind you that all medical appointments count as an absence. Children are not in school. Sometimes, these cannot be helped and we understand that. We would not expect hospital appointments to be rearranged for example. However, non-urgent appointments such as routine dental or optical appointments should not be made during school time. Your children's attendance is affected by this as it will count as an absence. There are 175 days each year when children are not in school. Please try to arrange appointments for these days wherever possible.



Sustainable Drainage Project

Some of you with older children may remember the Great Flood of Grendon that closed school for a few weeks some years ago, following a storm. Those who live locally will also know that there was significant work done to improve drainage on roads in the local area after this.

To further improve drainage on site and reduce risk of further flooding, Grendon has been included as part of a sustainable drainage project run by the Department for Education. We are having some water storage tanks underground in our back playground and some planters installed at key locations along the back of our building. The intent is to store surplus water and slowly release this into the drainage system.

This project should begin in the next few weeks. A section of the back playground will be securely fenced off while the work is completed, but there will be no disruption or changes made to our school day and our curriculum.

Year 6 Dates

More detail will follow in due course, but please save the following dates. Year 6 Prom will be on Monday 15th July from 6pm - 8pm and their Leavers Assembly on Thursday 18th July at 9.15am.

Measles

There is significant concern in Birmingham about the number of cases of Measles and the impact that this is having. I have been asked by Public Health to provide the following information:

- There have been over 300 cases in Birmingham since October, with around half needing hospital care.
- MMR vaccination offers lifelong protection and can be given at any point.
- There are vaccinations available that do not contain pork.
- You should not attend a school or medical setting if you suspect you or your child has measles, but phone for advice.
- Non vaccinated close contacts of cases may be advised not to attend a setting for up to 21 days.

Please speak to your GP or search online if you need further information. We have no cases in school at the moment.

Junior Leader Road Safety Day

Many thanks for your support for our Junior Leaders Day. The children had lots of fun learning and working out how to persuade families to drive and park more safely and reduce congestion outside school! Look out for their video which will be available to view soon.

World Book Day

You have already received a letter about our plans for World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. We know that dressing up outfits are not cheap and the children grow quickly! If you have any book themed outfits that no longer fit your child and would like to donate these to school, please do so by Friday 23rd February. We would like to hold a pop up shop, (if we have enough donated), for parents to look through and take outfits that are suitable, with no charge. More information will follow if we receive donations.

I would like to wish you all a very happy half term holiday - let's hope the rain stops! We will see you all again on Monday 19th February.

Best wishes, Mrs Ridley