

Newsletter

October 2023



We hope you all had a lovely half term break and that the children are well rested ready for this long and busy second half term! There are lots of events coming up soon, so do look out for further information. Thank you for your continued support, we are looking forward to seeing you in and around school in the coming weeks!

Meet the Senior Leadership Team

Mrs Withers
Executive Headteacher
(based at Cosby Monday pm, Wednesday am, all day Thursday and Friday pm)

Mrs Townsend
Head of School

Mr Sexton
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Pegley
SENDCo

Miss Cox
Y3/4 Team Leader

Mrs Nutting
Y1/2 Team Leader

Mrs Knox
Early Years Team Leader

The classteacher is always the first point of contact for parents in the event of a concern or question regarding your child. Mrs Knox is available to speak to parents as a next step for parents of children in Early Years, Mrs. Nutting for parents of children in Years 1 and 2, Miss Cox for parents of children in Years 3 and 4 and Mr. Sexton for parents of children in Years 5 and 6. Parents can then contact Mrs. Townsend or Mrs. Withers should any matter remain unresolved.



Meet our School Council

Well done to our new school councillors! We are looking forward to hearing all your ideas about how we can make our school an even better place to be!



Meet our Sports Ambassadors



Our new Sports Ambassadors are looking forward to supporting our sporting endeavours this year!

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance is extremely important in ensuring the best possible progress for your child and we will continue to award termly certificates for 100% attendance.

Please ensure that your child arrives punctually for the start of each school day. Late arrivals do cause additional work and disrupt the learning of the class. Children who are late arriving should report to the Office before going to the classroom.

Good attendance at school is defined currently as at least 96% attendance with no unauthorised absences. Our attendance registers are checked regularly and all pupils whose attendance falls below 96%, for whatever reason, are highlighted. Regular lateness is also identified. Parents of children that are identified in this way, will receive a letter from our Attendance Improvement Officer.

Government legislation has set the persistent absence threshold at 10%. This means that any pupil will be persistently absent when they have missed 38 sessions (half days) at any point during the academic year, which can be as little as 5 or 7 sessions (half days) each term. Pupils who are in danger of reaching this threshold will automatically be referred to the Attendance Im-

provement Officer.

Please ensure that the office is informed, as soon as possible, if your child is to be absent for any reason. Office Staff will contact parents on the first day of absence where no message has been received. The school and its staff regard the regular attendance of children at school as being vital to each child's education and development. It is for this reason that non-attendances (however short or infrequent) are treated seriously. It remains the policy of the school to only sanction non-attendance during term time in exceptional circumstances.

If your child has unauthorised leave of absence due to holidays you may either be issued with a Penalty Notice of £120 per parent per child (discounted to £60 if paid within 21 days), or your case could be referred by the Local Authority directly to the Magistrates' Court for the purposes of criminal prosecution.

I hope that you will support the school in this matter, as we are all concerned to see children fulfil their full potential at school. I am sure you will agree that this can best be achieved by avoiding unnecessary absence.

Dogs

Please could we remind all parents that dogs are not allowed on site at any time, even if they are carried!

Trips & Payments

We work hard to enhance our curriculum with additional trips and visitors. Unfortunately, we are unable to fund these from our school budget and so have to rely on parental contributions in order to run these visits. We fully understand that the costs of trips can put additional pressure on parents and with increasing numbers of parents being unwilling or unable to pay, we are finding that school is having to fund significant shortfalls on every trip we run. We cannot afford this as a school and the shortfall costs have to be taken out of other areas which means that curriculum resources and even support staffing can become unaffordable as a result. For that reason, we have made the decision to send out Trip Notification forms informing parents of forthcoming trips together with the likely contribution that will be needed in order to make the trip viable. If it is not viable then that trip will not run. We will also be sending out an annual calendar of proposed trips and visits so that parents are aware well in advance of activities that may be happening throughout the year.

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is an online platform which offers many useful features including positive behaviour management, parent/teacher communication and class/school newsfeeds. When successful communication occurs, we will all become more engaged and involved in class and school wide events. Research has shown that strong parent-teacher communication improves academic performance in children and provides a great feeling of community. In order to use it successfully, we must all be aware of the role that we play.

Parents/Carers and Class Dojo

- Parents can use a generated invite code in order to link with their child's class and teachers will help with queries regarding this in a timely way.
- Only parents or legal guardians will be given access codes to Class Dojo. It is expected that up to two parents will be linked to a child's account; any additional adults will only be accepted in special circumstances.
- Parents can view the total of number points their child has received along with the reason they have been awarded.
- Within the app or website, parent accounts also have access to both a whole school and class newsfeed where they will find important information posted by staff.
- Parent accounts also have the facility to send messages to members of staff, however the following stipulations apply:
 - ◇ Parents may message class teachers at any time, however there is no expectation for teachers to reply outside the hours of 8am-6pm. This is essential to safeguard the wellbeing and work-life balance of the staff.
 - ◇ **The following matters should always go through to our Main Office and are not the responsibility of teachers to be passed on: absence, sickness, school dinner enquiries and complaints.**
 - ◇ Parents should not use this messaging tool to enquire about the progress of their child on any level, but can use it to arrange a meeting with class teachers to discuss any questions they may have.
 - ◇ Parents who do not use the messaging system correctly will be given a warning should the service continue to be misused, they could be removed from the platform.
 - ◇ Parents should look at the newsfeed regularly to keep up to date with messages and information.
 - ◇ Parents must make sure that children cannot access their parent account and are not able to send messages under their name.

Anti-Bullying Week

Friday 17th November, 1:30pm

You are invited to join us for our 'Make a Noise about Bullying' celebration afternoon.

Primary Patches @ Cosby Primary

Primary Patches is our child care provision. We currently have vacancies for child care both before and after school. For further information please contact the School Office or contact Primary Patches directly on 07925124105 after 3:00 p.m., or leave a message on that number at any time.

3+ Preschool

We are full for the 2023-24 academic year and have a waiting list for places as they become available. We are now taking applications for admissions for the Autumn Term 2024.

Application forms are available from the School Office.



PARKING

We regularly receive complaints from our neighbours and parents about inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous parking. Neighbours need access to their properties and parents with young children and pushchairs need to be able to walk safely on the pavements.

We would strongly encourage you to park away from the school and walk the rest of the way whenever possible (the library car park is a good place!) and avoid parking across driveways and pavements. Thank you for your support with keeping our children safe.

Playtime Snacks

A reminder of our healthy snack policy.

Children bringing a snack for playtime should have a healthy fruit snack. Snacks such as crisps, chocolate, cakes and biscuits should be avoided please.

Children in Need

Friday 17th November

Crazy Hair Day!

Come to school with your whackiest hairstyle!

Minimum £1 donation—please use the link below:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=12381>



Coming Soon!

Duck Race tickets for sale at our disco and Parents' Evenings.

Friday 3rd November 'Be Yourself' non-uniform day in exchange for a raffle prize.

8th December Christmas Fayre

21st December Christmas Disco

Christmas Pantomime

Monday 18th December



De Montfort Hall

Please make payment as soon as possible so that final arrangements can be made.

Term Dates 2023-2024

Autumn Term

School Opens: Tuesday 29th August 2023
 Half Term: Monday 16th – Friday 20th October
 School Closes: Friday 22nd December

Spring Term

School Opens: Monday 8th January 2024
 Half Term: Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February
 School Closes: Friday 22nd March

Summer Term

School Opens: Monday 8th April 2024
 Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May
 Half Term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May
 School Closes: Tuesday 9th July

Term Dates 2024-2025

Autumn Term

School Opens: Tuesday 27th August 2024
 Half Term: Monday 21st – Friday 25th October
 School Closes: Friday 20th December

Spring Term

School Opens: Monday 6th January 2025
 Half Term: Monday 17th – Friday 21st February
 School Closes: Friday 11th April

Summer Term

School Opens: Monday 28th April 2025
 Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May
 Half Term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May
 School Closes: Tuesday 8th July

Coming Soon...

Date	Event
Monday 30th October	Y5 and Y2 Library Visits
Wednesday 1st November	Year 6 Library Visit
Wednesday 1st November	Year 3 (& selected Y5/6) swimming begins
Wednesday 1st November—Monday 6th November	Book Fair 3:15—3:45 each day and during parents' evenings
Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd November	Parents' Evenings
Friday 3rd November	FOCS Non-Uniform Day
Friday 3rd November	Y3/4 Library Visits
Monday 13th—Friday 17th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 17th November	Children in Need Day
Friday 17th November 1:45pm	Make a Noise About Bullying Parent event
Friday 4th—Friday 8th December	Enterprise Week
Friday 8th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 8th December 3:30—5:30	FOCS Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December	R/KS1 Christmas Performance 2:15pm
Friday 15th December	Christmas Dinner
Monday 18th December	Pantomime Trip
Tuesday 19th—Thursday 21st December	Christmas Parties
Thursday 21st December	FOCS Christmas Disco
Thursday 21st December	Celebration Assembly (invited parents only)
Friday 22nd December	End of Term (3:10/3:15pm)

Keep in touch!

The majority of our communication is now sent via ParentPay emails and Dojo only. It is vital that we have an up to date email address for you—please inform the office if you have recently changed your email address. If you are not able to access Dojo, please speak to your child's classteacher.

NUT ALLERGIES

We have a small number of children in school who have serious nut allergies. Consequently snacks and lunch boxes should not contain any items containing nuts.
 Thank you for your co-operation.