



# Newsletter

<http://www.oldparkprimary.co.uk>

Newsletter 1: 3rd September 2024

## Message from the headteacher



Welcome to the start of the 2024-2025 academic year! It was wonderful to see all of the pupils return to school this morning with lots of big smiles as they entered their new classrooms. Understandably there were also lots of nerves with the pupils joining their new teachers and teaching assistants, entering a new classroom and getting to know new pupils in their class. On my walks around the school however everyone appears to have settled in really well and were having fun getting to know each other, which shows the amazing resilience that our pupils show even when they might be nervous about things.

All of the pupils looked incredibly smart this morning as I went around the school and it was a pleasure to see them in their Old Park uniforms looking proud to show them off. A big thank you to all the parents/carers for supporting us in making sure everyone looked so smart today, as I know that buying everything for a new school year can be expensive. If anyone does need support with uniform please speak to your child's class teacher or the school office and we will do our very best to support you. A reminder that you can find information on uniform on the school website if you are unsure of any requirements. [Old Park Primary and Nursery - School Uniform](#)

As we start the new academic year there are some new guidelines that came into force from 1st September 2024 around attendance. I have summarised these on page 2 of the newsletter and you can find out further information at the following website [School attendance and absence: Legal action to enforce school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

You will be aware from the end of year report from the governors that over the past 6 months the governing body has been researching the multi-academy trusts (MATs) that operate within Telford, and if now is the right time or not for Old Park to join one. This research has involved presentations from MATs, school visits by governors and teaching staff and discussions with other schools that have recently joined a MAT. After researching several MATs it was decided to move forward with a more formal consultation regarding the possibility of joining the Learning Community Trust (LCT). Over the next couple of weeks I will provide you with further information on the benefits that we think joining a trust will bring to everyone at Old Park, a frequently asked questions guide to MATs and when parents/carers can attend a presentation from the LCT. At this stage the school is only starting its formal consultation and if we felt at any point it was not right for us as a school we can withdraw from the process. The governors and myself are very excited about the opportunities that joining a MAT could bring to Old Park and we are looking forward to sharing these with you over this half term.

Everyone at Old Park is looking forward to another exciting and successful year and I would like to thank you in advance for all your support that I know you will provide as the year progresses, as our successes could not be achieved without everyone working together to help our pupils in their goal of 'reaching for success'.





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## *National changes to attendance*

From the 1st September the Department for Education (DFE) introduced new guidance for local authorities around attendance. As in previous years all requests for absence during term time must be submitted to the headteacher for approval, and these are only granted under exceptional circumstances.

### **Why is school attendance important? (Taken from gov.uk website).**

Being in school is important to your child's academic achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. There is evidence to suggest that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to support children and young people's educational, economic and social outcomes. Schools can facilitate positive peer relationships, which contributes to better mental health and wellbeing.

Attendance at school is crucial to prepare young people for successful transition to adulthood, and to support their longer term economic and social participation in society. There is also evidence that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A level results.

### **What changes have taken place to penalty notices for parents?**

1. The fixed penalty notice for 5 days unauthorised absence is now £160 per parent per child, reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days.
2. If there is a second occasion of 5 days unauthorised absence within 3 years a penalty notice of £160 is issued, this time it is not reduced if paid early.
3. On the third occasion of 5 days of unauthorised absence within 3 years no penalty notice will be issued, instead alternative legal actions will be utilised with possible prosecution and fines of up to £2500.
4. A fixed penalty notice can now also be issued to a pupil who has 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence within a 10-week rolling period. This period can also go across terms and does not reset after a holiday.

As previously the educational welfare officer from the local authority meets with me every three weeks to analyse the attendance of all pupils across the school and issue warning letters if we are concerned. If you are having any issues which are impacting your child's attendance please speak to the class teachers or contact me through the school email address.





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## Diary Dates

### Autumn 1

Monday 2nd September 2024	Staff PD Day
Monday 23rd September	Start of In Harmony lessons in school
Tuesday 1st October	Nasal flu vaccinations in school
Friday 4th October	Year 3-6 Racism awareness workshops
Thursday 24th October	Last day of half term for pupils
Friday 25th October	Staff PD day

### Term dates 2024-2025

Tuesday 3rd September 2024	Autumn term starts
25th October—1st November	October half term holidays
Monday 4th November	Autumn 2 term begins
20th December-3rd January 2025	Christmas holidays
Monday 6th January 2025	Spring term begins
17th—21st February 2025	February half term holidays
Monday 24th February	Spring 2 term begins
14th April—25th April	Easter holidays
Monday 28th April	Summer term begins
Monday 5th May	May day bank holiday
26th May—30th May	May half term holidays
Monday 2nd June	Staff PD day
Tuesday 3rd June	Summer 2 term begins
Friday 18th July	Last day of term/academic year





# Newsletter



Telford & Wrekin  
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest  
to create a better borough



Telford and Wrekin  
**FAMILY HUBS**

## SOUTHWATER DROP IN



Every Wednesday 9.30am - 12:30pm  
Southwater Library – children's section

- Advice and signposting
- Information on parenting/ courses
- Support and guidance around accessing local community activities
- Family hubs information



Provided by  
Strengthening Families  
and Dandelion Peer  
Parent support

