Welcome to our new Reception and to everyone returning from their Summer break. I am very proud of how you have settled back into school life so quickly at Victoria Road.

It's been a busy September for everyone here. We have introduced our new reward system "Class Dojo" which has been a hit with the children. They are earning dojo's for demonstrating our three school rules: Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Ready along with great teamwork and working hard. We have then linked our dojo rewards to the house teams as part of our weekly celebration assembly. So far, our house winners are as follows:

Week ending $15^{\text {th }}$ September 2023 - Yellow House
Week ending $22^{\text {nd }}$ September 2023 - Blue House
Week ending 29 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ September 2023 - Yellow House
The house with the majority of wins this half term will have a non-uniform day Friday $3^{\text {rd }}$ November so watch this space!

We are putting together a behaviour information sheet for parents and carers to become familiar with our school policy and how they can support and encourage their child in school to follow our rules and be rewarded for doing this.

We have also increased the number of staff visible on the school gates as part of our safeguarding practices and we really do appreciate you supporting us in dropping the children at the gate with us in the mornings. We have also practised our fire drill with the new starters.

We look forward to future events with your children and any help is greatly received. For October these include:

Monday $9^{\text {th }}$ October 1.30 pm - 3pm - Reception'24 Open afternoon
Tuesday 10 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ October - Hello Yellow Day - Mental Health Awareness
Thursday $12^{\text {th }}$ October 5pm -6.15pm - Halloween Disco
Monday $16^{\text {th }}$ October - Harvest goods collection (until Friday $20^{\text {th }}$ October)
Wednesday $18^{\text {th }} \&$ Thursday $19^{\text {th }}$ October $3.30 \mathrm{pm}-5.30 \mathrm{pm}$ - Parents/Carers evening
Friday $20^{\text {th }}$ October $2.30 \mathrm{pm}-3.10 \mathrm{pm}$ - Harvest Celebration Assembly
Friday $20^{\text {th }}$ October - Last day of term before half term.
Monday $30^{\text {th }}$ October - Children return to school.
Thank you for your continued support
Sue Minor (Head of School)
head@victoriaroad.cheshire.sch.uk

## Holidays during Term Time

As we enter the new term, we would like to remind you of our Leave of Absence Request procedure and our Attendance Policy.

## Family Holidays during Term Time

In September 2013, amendments to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2206 made it clear that Head Teachers may not grant any Leave of Absence (Holiday) during term time, unless there are 'Exceptional Circumstances.'

Any requests for a planned leave of absence should be made via the form on our school website, or by emailing/visiting the school office. All request for leave forms should be returned to the school office.

The Head Teacher will determine what constitutes on an individual basis.
The following will not be deemed to be an exceptional circumstance:

- Family holiday
- Availability of a less expensive holiday.
- Availability of holiday accommodations.
- Parent/ Carer working commitments.
- Holiday pre-booked by another family member.
- Overlap with the beginning/end of term/half term.
- Holidays moved due to COVID 19.

Taking holidays in term time will affect a pupil's schooling as much as any other absence and we expect parents to support school by not taking pupils away in school time.

There is no entitlement in law to time off in school time to go on holiday.
School will respond to your request, advising whether the planned absence will be authorised or unauthorised. If the absence is unauthorized and is for 5 consecutive school days or more, a notification will be sent to the Local Authority and you may receive a Fixed Penalty Notice, where each Parent/ Carer receives a penalty of $£ 60$ per child to be paid within 21 days. This will rise to $£ 120$ between the $21^{\text {st }}$ and $28^{\text {th }}$ day. If the penalty is unpaid after the $28^{\text {th }}$ day, the LA will instigate legal proceedings in the Magistrate's court.

In exceptional circumstances, when leave of absence is granted, the Head Teacher will determine the number of days a pupil can be away from school.

Our full Attendance Policy can be found on our school website.

## Holiday dates 2023 TO 2024

|  | Date of opening (First day back at <br> school for pupils) | Date of closing (Last day in school <br> for pupils) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2023 Autumn Term | Wednesday 6th September | Friday 20th October |
| Autumn Term | Monday 30th October | Friday 15th December |
| 2024 Spring Term | Wednesday 3rd January | Thursday 15th February |
| Spring Term | Monday 26th February | Friday 24th May |
| 2024 Summer Term | Tuesday 15th April | Wednesday 24th July |
| Summer | Thath June |  |

INSET DAYS 2023-2024
INSET DAY 1 - Monday 4th September 2023
INSET DAY 2 - Tuesday 5th September 2023
INSET DAY 3 - Friday 29th September 2023
INSET DAY 4- Tuesday 2nd January 2024
INSET DAY 5 - Friday 16th February 2024
INSET DAY 6 - Monday 3rd June 2024

We understand that there can be health problems, but:

Don't believe that the 'odd day off can't harm.' Research carried out on the effects of broken weeks and achievement is astounding. A student can have $95 \%$ attendance but still have 10 broken weeks! Hugely detrimental to a pupil's learning, leaving big gaps in knowledge!

- Try to judge how 'severe' the pupil's illness is. Do they really need to stay at home?
- How many of them are better by lunchtime? Send them back to school!
- If a pupil has an extended or intermittent but persistent condition, contact the attendance officers and arrange a meeting to set up a supportive action plan. There are lots we can offer to do, to prevent a pupil missing education.
- Non-urgent doctor, dental appointments and checkups should be made outside school time - school finishes at 15:15.
- If an appointment must be set in school time, absence will only be authorised for a reasonable margin of time. Not half a day to go to local GP/dentist. We understand orthodontic treatments and hospital clinic appointments may take longer. Try to minimise time out of school.
- Try to vary the days of these treatments to avoid missing the same lessons in a cycle.

Pupils need to be in school to maximise their learning and success.


## ATTENDANCE

## School attendance aspiration = 96\%



Year Group Attendance
Reception: ..... 97.01\%
Year 1: ..... 96.89\%
Year 2: ..... 96.04\%
Year 3/4: ..... 97.89\%
Year 4/5: ..... 95.6\%

