

App: **Have you booked onto one of our APP Workshops?**

There are three opportunities to come and learn more about our APP in School ... before we stop using all other forms of communication. **#keepintouch** We are almost ready to launch **ParentPay**. We are just at the final stages before accepting electronic payments.



Arrive on time **FOR ten to nine.**  
It's the smart-way and the North-way to start!

**Thank you** for working to this routine. Gates are now locked on time and staff are able to get to their interventions on time ..... which benefits **all our children**. Thank you!



**Week 3  
ATTENDANCE**

Reception Gruffalo	98%
Reception Stickman	97.1%
Year 1 Morris	99.2%
Year 1 Sharman	93.6%
Year 2 Churchill	96.9%
Year 2 Windsor	92.4%
Year 3 Archer	99.2%
Year 3 Roscoe	97.7%
Year 4 Lennon	100%
Year 4 McCartney	100%
Year 5 Hawking	97.7%
Year 5 Turing	96.3%
Year 6 Anning	92.7%
Year 6 Darwin	99.1%

98+ **Green**  
95%-97% **Amber**  
94% and below **Red**

**Week 3  
LATES**

Rec Gruffalo	1
Rec Stickman	1
Y1 Morris	2
Y1 Sharman	0
Y2 Churchill	0
Y2 Windsor	0
Y3 Archer	3
Y3 Roscoe	0
Y4 Lennon	0
Y4 McCartney	0
Y5 Hawking	0
Y5 Turing	0
Y6 Anning	0
Y6 Darwin	0

**This week  
Congratulations!**

**Attendance:  
Morris**

**Total:  
97.1%**

**This week's  
HOUSE WINNER  
(Not started yet)**



Arrive on time **FOR**  
ten to nine.  
It's the smart-way and  
the North-way to start!

# Northway Primary and Nursery School

Northway, Liverpool, L15 7JQ

Tel: 0151 722 3540

**Spring 1 2020**

**Week 3**

[www.northway.liverpool.sch.uk](http://www.northway.liverpool.sch.uk)

**VOLUME 1 Issue 18**



HEADTEACHER  
Mr M J Hargreaves

24<sup>th</sup> January 2020

# NEWSLETTER

**Special 'Attendance' issue of our Newsletter**



Last week Mrs Reilly and Miss Sultan used the APP to gather your ideas and feedback regarding our attendance strategies. **This newsletter shares some of the questions you asked and the answers to them.** Working together for attendance is essential and we are so keen to constantly strengthen this **partnership** with you.

**How much of a superhero are you feeling today?** In Thursday's Assembly, we thought about three words: **TEAM, RESPECT** and **HERO**. We thought about how we are all different and unique but we are also **'all welcome'**. As a team, we bring our unique skills and talents to help **build our community**. The challenge was delivered: Every superhero has superpowers. Our children and staff are superheroes with the power to: say kind words, to be a friend, to look for the best in each other, celebrate our difference and build each other up. We also have the power to do the opposite. Team Northway heroes were challenged to check how many times they could use their Superhero powers for the good of everyone over the next week. **Are you ready to take up the Team Northway Superhero challenge?**

This week I've had the privilege of seeing six lessons. I have shared geography in 1S, Maths in Reception G and Stk, Maths in 4McC, Science in 2W and English in 5H. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the depth of learning from Reception to Year 5, especially how children and staff interact and engage with each other so positively. **We have so many talented pupils and staff.** Enjoying learning opportunities is one of the best aspects of being a Headteacher. I have three more booked in for next week ... **Team Northway already ready to celebrate teaching and learning.**

Mr Hargreaves HEADTEACHER

## Notes from Mrs Reilly and Miss Sultan

Thank you for the overwhelming response to the attendance questionnaire sent out via the parent app (if you are not yet connected, please speak to a member of the Office Team, who can help you get connected). With all of your fantastic contributions, we felt it was important to respond and clarify some of our school policy regarding attendance and the reasoning behind our strategies.

This letter will address some of the points you raised, to enable us to continue to develop the work being put into help our school community to tackle attendance and punctuality together.

### A parent(s) said...

**It is down to the parent or guardian with parental responsibility to ensure their child/children attend school at primary level.**

As a school, we could not agree more. Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on parents to ensure that their child of compulsory school age receives a suitable education by regular attendance at school. However, Schools also have a safeguarding duty, under section 175 of the Education Act 2002, to investigate any unexplained absences.

Schools have to regularly inform the Local Authority of pupils who are regularly absent from school, have irregular attendance, or have missed 10 sessions or more without the school's permission.

If a registered pupil of compulsory school age fails to attend school regularly, the parent could be guilty of an offence under section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

Until school has a reason for absence, we have to consider any unexplained absence as a missing child, which must be followed up, in the interest of the child, to ensure they are safe.

### A parent(s) said...

#### Penalties are unfair

Penalties are only issued when parents/guardians keep their child off so regularly they become classed as **persistently absent** (90% or below, which by the end of the year is equivalent to just under a month off school) for **unauthorised absences**. It is vital to provide reasons for your child's absence to avoid it becoming unauthorised. Any child nearing a persistently absent level will have received a 'Nearing Persistent Absentee' letter, to notify and give families the opportunity to improve their attendance or identify if they need help. Regular day-to-day illness tend not to keep a child off for the number of days that would bring a child's attendance as far below as 90%. Under no circumstances does school encourage you to bring a genuinely ill pupil to school, particularly if they are contagious.

Genuine medical conditions will not be penalised. Parents are required to provide evidence of doctor/hospital appointments or letters, which is even easier now via the parent app. If a family is struggling, our attendance team is always here to support and will have been in contact with the family to identify if help is needed. **We are a community and are always here to help when needed.** If you are struggling, make contact with either Mrs Lightfoot or Miss Sultan to discuss your situation.

A penalty is £60 and can rise to £120 if unpaid within 21 days. It is worth noting that it is actually £60 per pupil, per parent in cases of absence within term time. To avoid this school will put strategies in place to support your family, with the aim of working back to general expectations as soon as possible. If a registered pupil of compulsory school age fails to attend school regularly, the parent could be guilty of an offence under section 444 Education Act 1996. In April 2017, the Supreme Court held that attending school "regularly" means attendance in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school and not "sufficiently frequent attendance". This means that a child must attend school on every day that the school requires him or her to do so and failure to do this may lead to the commission of an offence.

### A parent(s) said...

#### **A targeted scheme should be in place aimed specifically at those persistently late and absent**

We are pleased to share with you this does take place. Attendance is monitored on a daily basis by the attendance team. This is our **First Response** system to ensure school knows where every pupil is every day to ensure they are safe.

The Attendance Team meet with the Attendance Lead and Educational Welfare Officer on a weekly basis to put strategies in place to support families. Within this meeting we-

- Monitor every pupil's attendance below 95% to ensure it is improving weekly if it has fallen
- Identify trends and patterns of absence that can lead to poor attendance for all pupils
- Identify families who may need additional support and arrange a meeting with school
- Identify and put into place next steps for persistently absent pupils (every persistently absent pupils attendance is monitored daily and home visits may take place to ensure we can support these families to come into school)
- Arrange Educational Welfare Officer meetings with families when families fail to improve their attendance
- Identify pupils at risk of becoming persistently absent and notification is arranged to alert families
- Identify necessary penalties for consistent unauthorised absences that have resulted in a pupil becoming classed as persistently absent.

### A parent(s) said...

#### **I do not agree with the class rewards**

We appreciate that not every strategy we put in place will be supported by everyone. It is school's responsibility to motivate and educate pupils on our expectations. Liverpool schools are all working to improve attendance to ensure our children have the same opportunities as children nationally. Class rewards are just one method we use to help drive the pupil's enthusiasm for building these life skills and the majority of the children absolutely love it.

### More information... *I do not agree with the class rewards*

#### **Whole School Assembly**

Attendance assemblies have taken place since the start of the year, and have been made a part of the Friday celebration assembly. Classes receive a class cup for attendance of the week and a certificate for their door. 100% attendance for the week for a class also receives an additional prize. We are very proud of the systems we have in place for the pupil's and have loved the suggestions you have made. Attendance certificates are handed out at the end of term for 97% and above and for 100% attendance to celebrate individual attendance. We want to reward children who have 100% but also do not want to penalise those that come to school all year but were unfortunately ill once during the year. Having 97/98% as a target accommodates this. We do not count holidays in term time as a reason for absence within this figure though.

### A parent(s) said... **My child has not received a reward for their attendance**

Every child with 97% or above receives a certificate at the end of term, as well as class prizes. It is our expectation that every pupil works towards 97% or above attendance to be in line with our regular attendance expectations. As a school we are limited by the financial climate also and as much as we would love to be able to buy every child a prize, it is just not feasible. This is why we have taken a prize draw approach to it. We want the child that does win to have a really special prize and on occasions we look to have prizes donated and sponsored by whatever means possible. This has enabled us to have additional prizes at special times, such as Christmas. However, as a token of appreciation for the point raised, this half term we will reward every child with good attendance with a small prize in recognition for their daily efforts. With our prize draw returning at the end of Spring 2.

## Guidance on illness and days off

As requested, we have provided Public Health Agency guidance for when your child does need to have time off school for illness and when they do not.

# Do I need to keep my child off school?



<b>Chicken Pox</b> Until all spots have crusted over	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Diarrhoea &amp; Vomiting</b> 48 hours from last episode	<b>Glandular Fever</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Impetigo</b> Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Measles or German Measles</b> 4 days from onset of rash	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days from onset of swelling	<b>Scabies</b> Until after first treatment	<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Whooping Cough</b> 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
	<b>Flu</b> Until recovered	<b>Head Lice</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Threadworms</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Tonsillitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	

January but February is almost here.

## Key dates for this half term:

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Week 4/6</b>
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Parent and Toddler Group (9am-10.30am)
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	NSPCC to discuss 'PANTS'
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Savers Club (8.30am-9am)
	Year 1 to Walker Art Gallery (Fieldtrip)
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Swimming Lesson <b>Year 5H</b> (1.20pm)
	Ukulele Class (3.30pm-4.30pm)
	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>Week 5/6</b>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Greece Cookery (Year 3)
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent and Toddler Group (9am-10.30am)
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Full Governing Board Meeting
	Young Savers Club (8.30am-9am)
	Parents' Mathematics Cafe (3.30pm-4.30pm)
	Attendance Quality Mark Day
	Swimming Lesson Year 5H (1.20pm)
	Ukulele Class (3.30pm-4.30pm)
	PTFA Event (TBC)
	
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Week 6/6</b>
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Inter-Faith Week</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent and Toddler Group (9am-10.30am)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Young Savers Club (8.30am-9am)
	Parents' RWI Intro Rec/KS1 (3.30pm-4.30pm)
	<b>Inter-Faith Carousel – parents invited</b>
	Swimming Lesson Year 5H (1.20pm)
	Ukulele Class (3.30pm-4.30pm)

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February**  
**Half Term**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February **INSET DAY 4**  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February **Spring 2** starts for all pupils

## Dog on the School site (For everyone):

Just a gentle reminder that **dogs are unfortunately not allowed on our school site**. This is a directive given by Liverpool (Health and Safety) to all schools and includes the whole of our site. Some children are unsure when around unfamiliar dogs and others are very frightened. **Even though you know your dog, they do not.** Dogs are also familiar with their owners and may play beautifully with their own family children, but can change behaviour when around other children.

Dogs are unable to use our school toilets! If a dog happens to go to the toilet on the playground, we are required to disinfectant for the safety of all our children. A dog did actually urinate on a pupil earlier in the year, which makes this rule all the more important.

It is therefore safer and fairer for all our children that dogs (carried or on a lead) **do not come onto our School site.**

Thank you for assisting us with this important rule.

Schools often have a School Dog – in this case, schools have carried out detailed risk assessments and have parental permission for any interaction with it.



## Northway Code:

Treat each other with **respect**. **Respect**  
Try to **talk** through our problems. **Service / Peace / Courage**  
Look after each other and show we care. **Compassion**  
Look after our school and things in it. **Respect**  
Follow instructions to ensure our school is a happy and safe place to be. **Wisdom**  
Always **try** to do our best. **Perseverance**