St Anne's Church Academy @Hewish & @West Wick





Newsletter Term 4 Thursday 28th March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all your support during this short but very busy term. We wish all our children and their parents and carers a wonderful Easter break. See you all on Monday 15th April.

Emma Hardy-Smith

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EASTER BONNET & CUPCAKE COMPETITION

































Thank you to all our children and families who took part in our Easter competitions this week. There were some marvellous creations on display. Well done to everyone! Here are just a few pictures. Please see our social media sites to see more images.









CHANGES TO DFE ATTENDANCE POLICY - PENALTY NOTICES



As you may be aware, school attendance is a priority for the government and all schools. In order to improve attendance, the Department for education will introduce statutory guidance for all schools - working together to improve school attendance comes into force in August 2024, ready for the new school year in September.

The main changes are to the penalty notice framework. Please see the following brief summary:

- 1. Fines are going to increase from £60 to £80 for a first time offence- 10 sessions within a 10 week period- this may not be consecutive days. (This increases to £160 if paid after 21 days.)
- 2. In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any **three-year period**, this will immediately be charged at the higher rate of £160.
- 3. For a repeat third offence, a Penalty Notice will not be issued as fines per parent will be capped at two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like parenting

- orders, education supervision orders or prosecutions will be pursued. If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.
- 4. The threshold at which a penalty notice **must** be considered is 10 sessions in a 10 week rolling period. This includes all unauthorised absences not just holidays.
- 5. Local Authorities (LAs) will have a duty to check with other LAs if a penalty notice has previously been issued in the preceding 3 years, which means that even if families move areas, any previously issued penalty notices by another LA can count towards the 2 penalty notice limit per parent per child in the 3 year period.

This new statutory guidance will mean that our Trust policies and practices will be need to be updated for September. Until the end of the year, we will continue to follow our current practices.

School attendance is mandatory for all children. Please be aware that holidays in term time will not be authorised. If you are considering booking a holiday in term time for next year, please read the guidance carefully and take into account the increases to penalty notices and parenting orders and education supervisory orders that may be issued as a result. Unfortunately, some parents and carers are not always truthful about holidays and leave messages that children are absent due to illness, please be mindful that if schools have reason to believe a holiday has been taken (children are always excited and tell their teachers and their friends) a penalty notice will be recommended.

Please be very mindful that children who arrive at school late after the registers have closed will be marked as absent. This is recorded as an unauthorised absence and could meet the threshold at which a penalty notice or further action is required.

All schools will be following this guidance and we ask that all parents and carers work with us and support us to ensure that attendance for all pupils is strong.

Please see the link below for some useful information.

https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/02/29/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/

The full DFE document for schools— working together to improve school attendance- can be found here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024_.pdf

NEW END OF TERM 4 REPORTS



We will be trialling our new look annual reports shortly. Teachers are busy writing and checking the reports as we speak. These electronic reports will be sent out via email to the contact details held on our system on the first day of term 5 – **Monday 15**th **April**. They are being sent out at this time of year so that we can all work together to continue to help your children to make progress this school year.

Please look out for these reports. You will receive a link to your child's report which can be opened with your child's date of birth. We hope you enjoy reading your child's reports.

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS



The timetable for terms 5 & 6 clubs has been emailed out this week. You can view this information on Weduc or on our website by following this link:

https://stanneschurchacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Term-5-6-Afterschool-Clubs-letter-2023-2024.pdf

The closing date for bookings is Friday 19th April.

FOODBANK



If you are experiencing any hardship ,Weston-super-Mare Foodbank are able to offer support. In order to access this help you need to be given vouchers. As a school, we are able to issue these vouchers so please speak to us or follow this link for more information: https://westonsupermare.foodbank.org.uk/

If you would like to make a donation to Foodbank we have collection points in both of our foyers. This link will have a list of current most wanted items: https://westonsupermare.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

SAFEGUARDING

The Designated Safeguarding lead at our school is our principal, **Emma Hardy Smith.** Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Diane Martin (SENCo), Ian Phillips (Vice Principal) and Rachel Few (Learning mentor) **Please share any concerns with any of the safeguarding team.**

Our safeguarding governor is Kate Sargent Kate.sargent@saca.theplt.org.uk

Our school website has lots of safeguarding information and many links to other helpful sites.

The North Somerset safeguarding partnership has lots of useful information for parents and carers available. Please click on the link below for additional support.

https://www.nsscp.co.uk/resources-parents-carers

DIARY DATES

Monday 15th April – First day of Term 5 Tuesday 21st May – Sports Day @WW Thursday 23rd May – Sports Day @H Friday 24th May – Last day of Term 5 Monday 3rd June - First day of Term 6 Wednesday 24th July – Last day of Term 6

INFORMATION





