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Chair of Governors: Sarah Walker

Governors: Jade Brown, Joseph Burton, Adam Campbell, Grant Chaney, Suzi McIntosh, Amaritpal Uppal, Hannah Wadsworth and Claudia Wallis

Dear parents/carers,

RWI Evening

Thank you to all the parents who joined Mrs Mercer, our RWI leader and myself for the annual YR RWI meeting on Monday 30th September. This is a really important overview of how our RWI programme supports the developing of early reading and writing skills for YR children.

The slides from the presentation can be accessed using this link [RWI Presentation](#) You can also watch a recording of the presentation which was made last year but the information is still current. Here is the link [Introduction to RWI 2024 recording](#)



School Council Elections

On Wednesday 1st October, it was school council Election Day at The Firs! The hall was all set up as a polling station and some children from Y4 took turns to act as Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk in the hall during the day, as each class came in to cast their votes!



A big thank you to Mr Lees for setting up his voting booth for us again this year, it made the process so much more fun for the children and helped them



to learn about how elections work. Our new School Council is elected and will be meeting very soon.

School Photographs

The photographer will be in school for individual photographs on Tuesday 7th October. Any children who have siblings in school will also be photographed together unless we hear otherwise. Please can you ensure that your child is wearing their school uniform, including their green jumper/cardigan and hair accessories should be The Firs green colour only. If your child has their PE day on a Tuesday, please can they come to school wearing their school uniform and **not** their PE kit.

If there are any Saplings children who do not attend on a Tuesday and you would like them to have their photograph taken, please come to school at 09:15 via the main school entrance. If your Saplings child has a sibling in school, we can collect them so that this can be done at the same time.

Central Bedfordshire Community Access Service

Please see attached to this newsletter information about online workshops for parents and caregivers.

Halloween Craft Clubs during Half term

Also attached to this newsletter is information about Halloween art clubs that are running during half term for children ages 5-10 years.

Arrival to School Late

Since September, we have had a number of children arriving late to school in the morning. All children should be in their class and ready to learn by 8.55am. Children arriving late are given a late mark and if your child is consistently late, this can trigger a penalty notice.

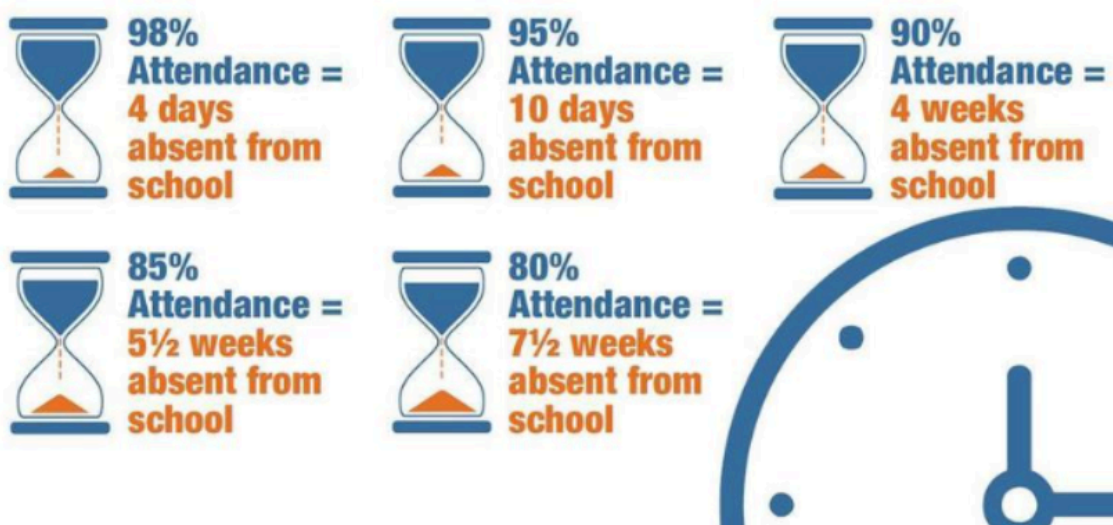
We do understand that from time to time there are instances when arriving to school late may be unavoidable and we will always take this into account when marking the register. If your child is going to be late or if they are unwell, please use our StudyBug app to report this by 09:05 at the latest. Thank you.

The Importance of Good Attendance and Holiday in Term Time

Please be aware that if you take your child on holiday, including Reception children who are statutory school age, during term time and it is for 5 days (10 sessions) or more, this will trigger a penalty notice.

We are unable to authorise holiday during term time and would ask, where possible, this should be avoided.

As the diagram below powerfully shows, attendance below 96% (our overall school target) represents a significant amount of lost learning:



For more information see the [Attendance Page](#) on our website.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We will again be holding a MacMillan coffee morning on Friday 10th October in our school hall from 09:00 - 10:30.

We are asking for donations of cakes to be brought into school on Thursday 9th October so that we can display them in plenty of time on Friday. Please can you ensure that there are no nuts in any of the cakes



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bought or homemade and list the ingredients of the homemade cakes in case of allergies.

Any cakes left over will be on sale at the end of the school day.

We hope to see as many parents as possible as your support with this will be greatly appreciated.

Lunchtime Bands



At lunchtime, children wear coloured bands to show what meal they're having or to highlight any dietary needs. These bands are handed out each day and collected as the children receive their meals.

From time to time, a band might accidentally make its way home. If you happen to find one, we'd be really grateful if you could return it to your child's class teacher or drop it off at the school office. We've already noticed a few have gone missing this term. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Yours sincerely,



Adam Campbell - Headteacher