



# Featherstone Academy

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[www.Featherstoneacademy.co.uk](http://www.Featherstoneacademy.co.uk)



## Autumn 2019 – NEWSLETTER 2

### **SCHOOL STARTS BACK ON MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2019**

#### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE BOX APPEAL)**

We are supporting Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal again this year. Some of you have already picked up shoe boxes from school. We still have lots of boxes available if you would like to help support this worthy charity for children in need around the world. Shareshill church will be collecting the boxes on **Wednesday 13th November**, so we still have plenty of time. Thank you for your ongoing support.

#### **DEADLINE FOR HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSION**

The closing date for High School applications is Thursday 31st October 2019. Visit Staffordshire Admissions online to apply.

#### **ADMISSIONS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL SEPT 2020**

If your child's fifth birthday is between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 then you will need to apply for a place at first, infant or primary school. You can apply online from 1st November 2019 at <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

#### **Harvest Festival**

We would like to say a big thank you for all your kind donations for our harvest festival. We are currently awaiting Cannock Food Bank to collect the bumper collection. We will let you know how many boxes we have helped to fill.

#### **NEW LUNCH MENU**

A new school menu will be in place from Monday 4th November 2019. You can find these on our website or a paper copy is available in the school office. There will be a special Bonfire Lunch on Tuesday 5th November.



### *Featherstone Academy Christmas Tombola*



The PTFA are holding our annual tombola at the Christmas Fair on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. In past years we have asked for parents support by donating a gift, bottle or chocolate item to add to the prizes.

This year we have added an incentive for all to dig deep and donate as many prizes/items as you can...

For every item given to the PTFA on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>-Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November between 08:30-09:00 in the large playground, the children will receive a raffle ticket. At the Christmas Fair the tickets will be combined and a winner will be drawn, the prize to the winner will be...



**If anyone has any queries or questions please don't hesitate to call into the school office, where a member of staff will be happy to help during office hours 8:30a.m to 4:30p.m.**



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## **Coming soon: Online payments to school with ParentPay!**

Starting week commencing Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, we will be introducing a more convenient way to pay for school meals, trips, after school clubs and much more online, using a secure service called ParentPay.

ParentPay will be live at school on 4/11/19; from this date we will be working towards no longer accepting cash and cheque payments, making the school a cash-free environment. Parents who need to continue making payments by cash may do so using the PayPoint network at local convenience stores.

### **Making secure payments online using your credit or debit card**

ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available.

You will have a secure online account, activated using a unique username and password; you will be prompted to change these, and to keep them safe and secure. If you have more than one child at our school, or children at other ParentPay schools, you can create a single account login for all your children.

Making a payment is straightforward and ParentPay holds a payment history for you to view at a later date; no card details are stored in any part of the system. Once you have activated your account you can make online payments straight away.

**Your unique ParentPay Account activation details have been sent home with your child 25/10/19.**

For further information on ParentPay please see the FAQs overleaf or visit [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com).

IF ANYONE NEEDS ANY HELP, PLEASE COME INTO THE SCHOOL OFFICE AND WE CAN HELP TO SET YOU UP.



### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

**7:45am—8:40am**  
**KS2 Children Only**

Please note Reception—Year 2 children must be accompanied by an adult. Children attending breakfast club must register and purchase breakfast items. If children have had breakfast at home, they must come into school from 8:40am.

### **DIARY DATES Autumn Term 2019**

- 25th October—Break up
- 13th November—Flu Immunisation Day
- 14th November—Photo Day (classes)
- 14th November—BINGO Night
- 18th November—Hockey Match—Wolverhampton Grammar
- 19th November—Parents Evening
- 20th November—Y5/6 Trip to Tudor World

### **Attendance**

**Our whole school attendance target is 96%**  
**Our Current Attendance today 95.68%**



### **Child Protection**

Parents should be aware that school has a legal requirement to refer concerns they have about the safety of children in their care to Social Services

## **Weekly/Cumulative Class Attendance**

	Week 4 %	Week 5 %	Week 6 %	Week 7 %	Whole School Sep %
Reception	99.3	95.2	100.0	97.9	97.7
Class 1	95.2	95.2	91.7	97.9	94.9
Class 2	96.2	99.0	99.0	98.6	98.9
Class 3	96.2	98.1	99.7	98.7	98.8
Class 4	99.7	100.0	99.7	99.3	99.7
Class 5	99.4	98.8	94.4	97.9	97.1
Class 6	97.5	100.0	99.6	97.9	99.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>98.0</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>98.0</b>



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**Golden Book**  
**PUPIL OF THE WEEK**  
**4th October 2019**

L.L- Lincoln Wesley  
Nursery- Havannah Chambers  
Reception- Cameron Till  
Layla-Rose Padfield  
Class 1- Theo Bayliss  
Class 2- Freddie Downes  
Class 3- Jake Kumar  
Class 4- Freya Duffield  
Class 5- Thomas Sherwood  
Class 6- Vincent Virketis

**Golden Book**  
**PUPIL OF THE Week**  
**11th October 2019**

LL- Abel Vitta  
Nursery-  
Reception- Chester Lawrence  
Roman Dickinson  
Class 1- Poppy-Mae Connolly  
Class 2- Theo Russell  
Class 3- Elise Beardsmore  
Class 4- Lilly Banks  
Class 5- Grace Riley  
Corey Summers  
Class 6- Mason Perry

**Golden Book**  
**PUPIL OF THE WEEK**  
**18th October 2019**

LL- Jacob Crook  
Nursery- Ellie Marston  
Reception- Faith Morgan  
Kaitlyn Northwood  
Class 1- Lottie Tuckwell  
Class 2- Daisy-Lea Smith  
Class 3- Hugo-Gervaise Cham-  
bers  
Class 4- Harlee Dixon  
Harleigh Parsons  
Class 5- Maisie Evans  
Class 6- Brody Lane

Well done to all those children chosen for the Golden Book in September.

Also, we would like to congratulate all those children that have shared certificates, awards, medals and trophies in Monday's celebration assemblies. It is lovely to see what hobbies they take part in outside of school.



## TERM DATES 2019/2020

### Autumn Term 2019

**Inset day:** Monday 2 September

**Term starts:** Tuesday 3 September

**Half term:** Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November

**Term ends:** Friday 20 December

**Holiday:** Monday 23 December - Friday 3 January

### Spring Term 2020

**Inset day:** Monday 6 January

**Term starts:** Tuesday 7 January

**Half term:** Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February

**Term ends:** Friday 3 April

**Holiday:** Monday 6 April - Friday 17 April

**Easter Sunday:** Sunday 12 April

### Summer Term 2020

**Inset day:** Monday 20 April

**Term starts:** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April

**May Day:** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May (Changed from Monday to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day)

**Half term:** Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May

**Inset day:** Monday 1 June

**Term starts:** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

**Term ends:** Friday 17 July

**Inset day:** Monday 20 July

**Holiday:** Tuesday 21 July - Monday 31 August

Please note that Inset days can be subject to change at the discretion of the headteacher.

## Penalty Notices for Absence from School 2019/2020

Ensuring your child has access to a good education is very important to us.

A key part of this is for all children and young people to regularly attend school, as this gives each learner the best chance to achieve their full potential. In light of the recent Isle of Wight court case and the subsequent Supreme Court ruling on school absences, we wanted to clarify our position for parents where there may be the potential for any ambiguity and to also ensure we are fully compliant with legal requirements.

Regarding holiday requests during term time, or other requests for leave of absence, it remains the case that head teachers may only authorise such absences if there are '**exceptional circumstances**'.

### **PENALTY NOTICE INFORMATION**

Please see the following statement from Staffordshire County Council regarding penalty Notices.

#### **[Penalty Notice for leave of absence \(holiday\) in term time](#)**

*From January 2018 any period of unauthorised leave may result in you as a parent receiving a penalty notice fine. Your head teacher will continue to be the only person able to authorise leave in term time, but this will apply only in exceptional circumstances. Any unauthorised absence will be referred by your head teacher to the local authority.*

#### **[Penalty Notice for persistent lateness](#)**

*Previously a pupil had to achieve 20 unauthorised late marks, and late marks do not have to be one after the other in order for the penalty notice to be issued. You are therefore encouraged where possible to ensure your child attends school on time. However, if your child is late you must inform the school of the reason(s) why, as they may be able to offer you some form of advice or support.*

#### **[Period of time used to measure persistent absence and lateness](#)**

*If your child has had 10 days unauthorised absence or is late 10 times over a twelve week period, you may receive a penalty warning notice and also potentially a fine.*

*These changes have been agreed with local head teachers and have been implemented to help promote and support good attendance to school. Further details and a copy of the revised Code of Conduct for issuing Penalty Notices can be obtained from the council's website [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education).*

### **WHAT IS A PENALTY NOTICE?**

The Local Authority will continue to take appropriate action for absences during term time when notified by the head teacher.

A fine of £60 per parent / carer (per child) if paid within 21 days from the date of issue. If this Penalty is not paid, the amount rises to £120. If after 28 days of the date of issue the £120 is not paid the Local Authority will prosecute you under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996. This will lead to a hearing in the Magistrates Court and may result in a fine of up to £1000.

We request that any applications for leave of absence (holiday) are required to be put in writing to the Head teacher, at least 2 weeks in advance.

The vast majority of children have an excellent record of school attendance, and we recognize the efforts of so many parents to ensure their children attend school regularly.

Mrs Caroline Jobling,  
Headteacher.