



As 2021 draws to a close, we celebrate our successes and achievements and look forward to 2022. Christmas is a lovely time of year in school, with children learning their Christmas songs, practising their nativity plays and making cards to send to someone special, whilst still working hard to achieve their learning goals. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas with friends and family and a happy, healthy new year.

Let's all hope that January does not bring us any more surprises and we hope that we get back to the events we started to have including parents. If there are any changes you need to be aware of, I will communicate them as soon as is humanly possible.

Mrs Edge

Mrs Edge will be leaving us at the end of this term after an amazing 27 years of working at Featherstone Academy. We wish her all the best and hope she enjoys the rest! The office will be a very different place without her and her smile and a warm welcome for everyone will be missed.

She reflected that not only did she attend as a child, but her children attended as well. Then many years of different roles around school. Most of her life has had some attachment to Whitgreave/Featherstone Academy. I am sure you join us in wishing her all the best for the future.



After School Clubs

Clubs will be continuing up until February half-term when they will be re-evaluated and new ones made available.

New PE Timetable for January 2022

Monday—Reception and Year 5

Tuesday - Year 2 and 3

Wednesday - Year 4

Thursday—Year 1

Friday—Year 6

Hello and Goodbye!

We would like to wish Miss Bate all the best as she starts her new job in another school.

We would also like to welcome Charmaine Griffiths to the Early Year's Team.

Also, a warm welcome to Bhavna Patel who will be the new administrator in the office in January.

Christmas Productions

We are all now so familiar with a different way of sharing school life with families. Christmas productions have been no exception, but the children have been practising songs and rehearsing their parts in order to still share Christmas traditions. We hope you enjoyed the videos and live streaming and agree the children have done themselves proud. We apologise for the difficulties with the sound and a few technical issues.

As always, we couldn't have done it without the efforts of parents providing amazing costumes and props, so thank you all very much. Also, thanks to all the teachers and staff who have been working hard behind the scenes.

School Library

We have had our long awaited delivery of a huge amount of brand new, up to date books for our library.

We cannot wait to get them all unpacked and put on the shelves for everyone to enjoy.

We hope to be able to show off our new library in the new year.

Parent involvement

I am currently working with one of our dedicated parents to try and bring back a PTA, which should be an essential part of a school. I would love as much interest as possible, so please have a think if you can fit in some time to support this. When I have more information, it will be shared and we may be asking for expressions of interest soon.

Restrictions permitting, I am hoping to bring in a weekly Headteacher coffee morning where any parents can come in and have a drink/biscuits and discuss all things Featherstone Academy along with specific child related issues.

RECEPTION & NURSERY SEPTEMBER 2022

We welcome prospective parents to visit school for a tour with Mr Gatrad.

Please email: headteacher@featherstone.uwmat.co.uk to arrange a convenient time. Please pass this on to families you may know with children due to start Nursery or Reception next September. We look forward to welcoming you.

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 8:00a.m to 4:00p.m.





DIARY DATES

School Diary Dates for 2021/2022

Further details of forthcoming events will be sent home nearer the time. Dates and events are subject to change.

Autumn Term

Friday 17th December

School Breaks Up

Spring Term 2022

INSET DAY – Tuesday 4th January 2022

Term Starts – Wednesday 5th January 2022

Half Term – Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February 2022

Term Ends – Friday 8th April 2022

Easter Holidays – Monday 11th April – Friday 22 April 2022

[TERM DATES CAN BE FOUND ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)



Free School Meals

If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals, could we encourage you to register a claim by completing the online application form. By using the online system an immediate yes or no response can be obtained and any applications will then feed automatically through to the entitlement team. A confirmation letter will be sent out to yourself and the school. If you prefer a paper copy, please collect one from the school office.

From September, children in Reception, Class 1 and Class 2 will all receive free school lunches funded by the government.

Even if your child/ren are in the above classes, if you meet the criteria, we still need you to make a claim for Free School Meals so that the school will be able to receive extra funding to support your child.

If you are registered for Free School Meals this can enable you to have extra support for your child.

To see if you are entitled to Free School Meals please check:

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmealsapplication

ATTENDANCE Please see our [attendance policy](#)

Every Day Counts! Research shows that regular attendance and punctuality are crucial factors in students achieving their full potential.

Attendance to Date (14/12/21)

OUR WHOLE SCHOOL TARGET IS 96%

Overall Attendance—94.3%

Year 1—93.1%

Year 2—95.6%

Year 3—95.2%

Year 4—96.5%

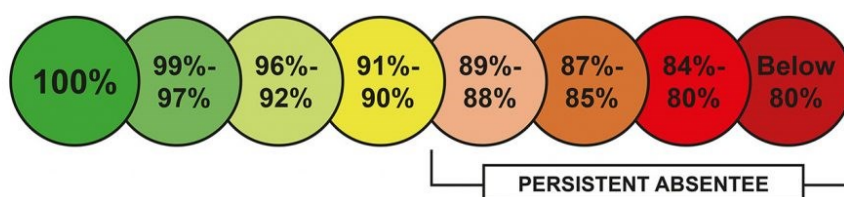
Year 5—95%

Year 6—96.3%

Reception—88.4%

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?

Are you set up for Bromcom/My Child at School (MCAS)?

My Child At School is an online portal for parents that enables them to view **their child's** performance at **school** in real-time via the web. The facility allows the **child's** attendance, attainment and behaviour accessible whenever the parent/carers wants.

Every family should have received an invitation to the new 'MCAS' (My Child At School) account. If you are new to the school, an invitation will be sent to you in September. Please make sure you have now set up your account to ensure you have access to the Portal. There are still many accounts that have not yet been activated. If you are struggling to do so, please contact the school office and they will assist you.

Once you have accepted the invitation code and entered the details, you must then verify your email address to enable the account to be fully activated

When asked for School ID (PIN) Code enter 12005.

Featherstone Academy 2021/2022

Guidance Notes for Parents requesting Leave in Term Time

1. Parents who want the school to consider granting leave of absence in school term time should read these notes carefully, **complete a holiday request form (available from the school office) and send it to the head teacher**. This form should be sent to the school in time for the request to be considered **well before** the desired period of absence. Parents are strongly advised not to finalise any booking arrangements before receiving the school's decision regarding their request. Head teachers cannot authorise any leave of absence unless the request is received before the period of absence begins.
2. The Department for Education makes it clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. Head teachers now also determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.
3. There is no automatic right to any leave in term time.
4. Staffordshire County Council understands the challenges that some parents face when booking holidays particularly during school holidays. However, we believe that, in order to ensure children receive the best education and prospects, that they should be in school during term time.
5. Each case will be considered individually and on its own merits. Parents need, therefore, to consider very carefully before making any request for leave of absence. In considering a request, the school will take account of: -
 - the **exceptional** circumstances stated that have given rise to the request
 - the stage of the child's education and progress and the effects of the requested absence on both elements
 - the overall attendance pattern of the child
 - frequency of similar requests
 - whether the parent made the request in advance
 - students/pupils on examination courses or due to take SATS will **not** normally be granted leave of absence.
6. Where parents have children in more than one school a separate request must be made to each school. The head teacher of each school will make their own decision based on the factors relating to the child at their school. However, head teachers may choose to liaise with each other as part of their decision-making process.
7. Should the school decide to grant leave of absence, but the child **does not return to school at the time s/he was expected to** (i.e. following the expiry of the granted leave of absence period) and no information is available to the school to explain/justify the continuing absence this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.
8. Should the school decide **not to grant leave of absence** and parents still take their child out of school, the absence will be recorded as **unauthorised**, which may be subject to a Penalty Notice fine of £60 **per parent* per child**. This fine will increase to £120 if not paid within 21 days. Failure to pay the £120 fine within the period 22 to 28 days may lead to Court proceedings.
9. The Local Authority will continue to monitor all school absences during term time and support head teachers in challenging parents who ignore the law.

* Generally the DfE states that parents include all those with day to day responsibility for a child.

FIND FURTHER INFORMATION ON

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/welfareservice/Attendance/Code-of-Conduct-From-1.1.2018.pdf>

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL DAY AT FEATHERSTONE ACADEMY

We are having a new electronic sign in system installed shortly. If your child is late for school, they will need to enter through the office where they will sign in and will receive a late mark automatically.

Jigsaw's Breakfast Club – from 7:45am

Jigsaw's After School Club – 3:00pm – 5:45pm

To book, please contact Linda on 07984123009 directly or visit [website](#) for further information.

School Opens

Little Learners & Nursery 9:00am – Gate 1 (The Avenue)

Reception Class, Year 1 & 2 Gates open 8:45am – Gates Close 8:55am – Gate 1
(The Avenue)

Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 Gates open 8:45am – Gates Close 8:55am – Gate 2
(KS2 Playground)

Morning registration is at 8.55am. Your child will be registered as 'late' if they are not in school at 8.55am. (Reception—Year 6).

Morning Break 10:45am – 11:00am

Lunchtime

12noon – 1:00pm – Early Years/Reception/KS1

12:15pm – 1:15pm – KS2

School Ends

Little Learners & Nursery 3:00pm Gate 1 (The Avenue)

Reception 3:15pm Gate 1 (The Avenue)

Year 1 & 2 3:15pm via the front office (please wait by the car park gates where you child will be dismissed to you by their teacher)

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 3:15pm Gate 2 (KS2 Playground)

Please collect your child promptly at the end of the school day. Where late collection is persistent and/or significantly late, the school is obliged to take any uncollected pupil to a place of safety and share concerns with other agencies.

IF WE FIND THAT SOMETHING IS NOT WORKING OR THINGS CHANGE DUE TO COVID, TIMES AND ENTRANCES/EXITS MAY CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE.

Week 1

Lunch Time At Featherstone



1/11/21, 22/11/21, 13/12/21, 10/01/22

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	DAILY
MAINS	Mozarella & Tomato Pizza	Chicken Goujons with Mayo Dip	Beef Burger with Mini Yorkies	Fruit Pots
SIDES	Potato Smiles, Sweetcorn, Crunchy Coleslaw, Side Salad	Potato Puffs, Peas, Side Salad	Mashed Potato, Carrots, Side Salad	Yoghurts
LIGHT BITES	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings	Jelly Pots
	Selection of Sandwiches	Selection of Sandwiches	Selection of Sandwiches	Cheese & Biscuits
DESSERT	Chocolate Muffin	Shortbread	Sprinkle Sponge	

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	ALLERGENS
MAINS	Sausage Roll	Harry Ramsden's Junior Fish Fillet	Please speak to a member of the Catering Team if you have any concerns about the contents in our dishes.
SIDES	Diced Potatoes, Peas & Sweetcorn, Side Salad	Chips, Baked Beans, Garden Peas	
LIGHT BITES	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings	
	Selection of Sandwiches	Selection of Sandwiches	
DESSERT	Chocolate Cookies	Assorted Mousse	



Week 2

Lunch Time At Featherstone



08/11/21, 29/11/21, 17/01/22

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	DAILY
MAINS	Hunter's Chicken (Bacon, Cheese & BBQ Sauce)	Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Pasta	Fruit Pots
SIDES	Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Side Salad	Garlic Bread, Peas, Side Salad	Yoghurts
LIGHT BITES	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings	Jelly Pots
	Selection of Sandwiches	Selection of Sandwiches	Cheese & Biscuits
DESSERT	Shortcake Fingers	Chocolate Iced Sponge	

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	ALLERGENS
MAINS	Popcorn Chicken	Butcher's Sausage	Please speak to a member of the Catering Team if you have any concerns about the contents in our dishes.
SIDES	Potato Wedges, Sweetcorn, Side Salad	Chips, Baked Beans, Garden Peas	
LIGHT BITES	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings	
	Selection of Sandwiches	Selection of Sandwiches	
DESSERT	Raspberry Buns	Arctic Roll	





Week 3

Lunch Time At Featherstone



15/11/21, 06/12/21, 03/01/22, 24/01/22

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY 	DAILY
MAINS	Mozarella & Tomato Pizza	Roast Beef with Mini Yorkies & Gravy	Fish Fingers	Fruit Pots
SIDES	Diced Potato, Sweetcorn, Crunchy Coleslaw, Side Salad	Roast & Mashed Potatoes, Carrot Batons	Potato Puffs, Baked Beans, Garden Peas	Yoghurts
LIGHT BITES	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings	Jelly Pots
	Selection of Sandwiches	Selection of Sandwiches	Selection of Sandwiches	Cheese & Biscuits
DESSERT	Chocolate Cupcake	Flapjack	Sugared Ring Doughnuts	
	THURSDAY	FRIDAY 	ALLERGENS	
MAINS	Tomato & Basil Pasta	All Day Brunch of Sausage, Bacon & Omelette	<p>Please speak to a member of the Catering Team if you have any concerns about the contents in our dishes.</p>	
SIDES	Garlic Bread, Peas, Crunchy Green Salad	Chips, Baked Beans		
LIGHT BITES	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings	Jacket Potato & Assorted Toppings		
DESSERT	Selection of Sandwiches	Selection of Sandwiches		
	Chocolate Crispie Cake	Ice Cream Cups		

