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Brilliant Beginnings

A belated Happy New Year to you all! I'd like to start the year by thanking the Year 4 parents for their commitment to their children's learning this week. Every single child was here ready at 7.15am yesterday to go and watch the sunrise at Birkkrigg, to support their learning. Much of what we do here centres around giving the children the very best experiences - our curriculum is second to none. **Parents may not know this, but the way this school plans your child's learning in different subjects is to be used as a model for other schools in Cumbria to follow.** It works best because you work with us - hearing your child read, helping with homework and online challenges like TT Rockstars, encouraging them to attend clubs and events but most of all talking and listening to them about their learning.

Our new tennis coach visited our school for the first time this week and was so impressed by Year 3 and 4's attitude to learning. He also loved the facilities we have here for them. We are trying to give your child the very best we can, every day, no excuses. Thank you for supporting us in their learning journey here at St George's. We are working with the children on our Vision and Values for the next four years - please look out for an opportunity to take part in this too.

Food

You may not have remembered but school has a policy of having no nut based foodstuffs in packed lunches. It may seem petty but (especially on trips) children can sometimes decide to share and there are those who could become very ill if they accidentally tried something. Also, at snack time we have fruit- please don't give your child alternative snacks like energy bars to bring in. Lastly, generally please check the sugar content of your child's packed lunch - it really is important they have the right food, at the right time in their development I'm sure you agree.

Attendance

The national expectation for all schools in England is 95%. Our school is currently on track but realistically could be doing better.

One of the biggest reasons that attendance figures go down is holidays during a school term. If your child has a two-week holiday as soon as we return in September it will take until the end of the term in December for them to achieve 90% attendance. These holidays are classed as unauthorised unless

authorised by the Headteacher. If you are considering booking a holiday you should put in writing, to the Headteacher, your reasons for going during term time and also how long your child will be absent. Other reasons may include keeping a child off a whole day to treat head lice. This could be treated in a morning and your child could be in school by playtime. Attending a doctors or dental appointment does not need a whole day either.

Our Safeguarding Policy and Attendance Policy state that if your child is not able to come to school it is your responsibility to inform us of the reasons. If you haven't contacted us and we cannot get in contact with you we have to mark them as an unauthorised absence yet once you explain the reason for the absence this will then be changed to an authorised absence. This does make a difference to the figures.

We are here to work together on getting it right for your children. We can help with getting your child safely to school in a morning but we need your cooperation with this to make it work. School works under close supervision of the Local Authority and we are guided by our Educational Welfare Officer.

Attendance this Week

Nursery AM	95%		
Nursery PM	95%	Year 3	99%
Reception	99%	Year 4	98%
Year 1	100%	Year 5	99.5%
Year 2	97%	Year 6	99.5%

LAST WEEK WAS A FABULOUS WEEK FOR ATTENDANCE WELL DONE!