



AUTUMN TERM

31ST OCTOBER 2022

Welcome Back!

We hope everyone had a lovely half term break, despite the weather! We are definitely heading into Winter with the colder days and nights. With that in mind can you ensure your child is suitably dressed for school. This half term our Lower School have lots of activities planned where they will still use the outdoors as part of their learning. Therefore, it is crucial that all children have a coat in school.

We have lots of exciting things planned for this half term. We continue to welcome new children and families to our school whilst we also support children moving on to longer term school placements or returning back to their school.

The last week of half term was exciting and we were really proud of lots of the children who are working hard, demonstrating positive attitudes to school and learning, working hard to have a positive growth mindset and be more resilient to try new things.

This half term we will be very focused on pupil reviews. Mrs Davies will be getting dates booked in so we can discuss how your child is doing and discuss next steps for their education.



Values at Stepping Stones

This week we are focusing on the value of respect and responsibility. Respect is a core value at Stepping Stones which we embed into all aspects of the school day. The children are encouraged to show respect to the school, to staff and to all other children. Whilst we recognise the children have difficulties with regulation it is a crucial life value to promote.

Alongside respect we will also focus on taking responsibility, this is an area that many children struggle with, however it is so important.

We encourage you to promote the school values at home. You could ask your child to be responsible for small things e.g. making their bed, feeding pets etc. If they do this then please let our teachers know, so the value at home nomination can be celebrated in school. Please promote the school values and rules at home.

Our passenger assistants also make nominations about children's behaviour to and from school. These are also celebrated.

During this week we will be finalizing plans for Winmarleigh. This is an opportunity for a small number of children from Y4 – Y6 to go on an overnight residential. We are looking at the logistics of this and sending out further information this week.

Key Reminders

Letters to return to school

Please can any outstanding letters and permission slips be sent to the office.

Remember – Any money coming into school e.g. dinners, trips should be in a named envelope.



Meet the Teacher Virtual Appointments

During this half term we will be giving you the opportunity to have a video call with the class teacher to discuss your child's progress and targets.

We will be sending out a separate letter with possible dates and times for you to complete and return.

Taxi Issues



Prior to half term we were encountering difficulties with a few children who became dysregulated and unsafe at the end of the school day. This resulted in it being deemed too unsafe for the child to access transport. On several occasions staff kindly took children home, to prevent parents / carers from coming. This is not sustainable and can not be continued.

Staff work extremely hard to make sure children are ready and calm for taxis. We stop teaching at 2:45pm each day to allow a period of calm before taxi time. We allow a time period of up to 3:15. However, we cannot have other children waiting to go home if one person is struggling.

Some issues we faced were around objects coming in from home that had caused issues on the taxi. It is therefore crucial that you do not send your child to school with objects e.g. toys, fidget items etc. All children need to follow the school rules on pupil transport and the passenger assistants and drivers have the right to refuse transport if they deem the child's behaviour to be a risk to them, other children or cause a danger whilst driving. Lancashire County Council organise the transport and this is not part of our school. Whilst we liaise with them, they are the ones who have overall say over the organisation of the transport. We are liaising with them to look at possible alternatives for key children, however transport costs have to be kept down and children cannot be transported 1:1. There is not the staffing or funding at the LA to do this. It is crucial that parents / carers work with school and ensure they instill safe transport expectations to their children.

Children must be safe with their words and actions.

Children must wear their seatbelts.

Physical violence of any kind will result in a suspension from transport, this includes spitting, hitting the passenger assistants, distracting the driver or putting other people at risk of harm etc.

We hope to avoid any further issues on pupil transport. A separate home school transport agreement will be sent home this week to outline the Local Authority rules and expectations.

95%	- 47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days	ATTENDANCE MATTERS WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?	Attendance and Booking Holidays during Term Time
90%	- 95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day		Attendance matters! I have been looking at the attendance data over the half term and have noticed a few key children with growing absences. This will be closely monitored over the half term. All children need to be in school unless they are unwell.
85%	- 142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days		
80%	- 190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days		

BE SMART BE THERE!
Percentages based on 190 academic days

If you are booking holidays during term time, please be mindful that these will not be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances. Any child on a dual placement e.g. still on roll at mainstream school should have the holiday request authorised by their mainstream school.

Thank You for your continued support. We are looking forward to the new half term and are excited about the curriculum we have planned!

Please remember that we are here to support and you can contact Mrs Armstrong (Family Support – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday)

Thank you,

Mrs. Dodd and the team at Stepping Stones School