

UPDATES & GENERAL INFO



Old Park Primary School

January 2025

We are excited to welcome the children back to school after the Christmas holiday and hope that the Spring term brings improved health for all. Unfortunately, the latter part of the Autumn term saw a significant increase in illness and absence, resulting in our whole school attendance average dipping down to 94%, below our usual standards. I am pleased to say that 97 children still have 100% attendance and we hope they are able to maintain this across the academic year.

Good attendance is crucial as it directly correlates with academic success, social development, and emotional well-being. Regular attendance fosters a sense of belonging, encourages positive relationships with peers and teachers, and significantly increases children's success, ultimately preparing children for future educational and career opportunities. Every single child's attendance makes a difference.

On the next page you will see our key dates across January and February as you will see, the children have another busy term ahead in addition to the curriculum learning that the teachers have planned for their classes.

For more detail on our curriculum offer please follow this website link:

By Year group: <https://old-park-wednesbury.sch.life/Page/Detail/what-we-do-we-teach-in-each-year-group->

By Subject:

<https://old-park-wednesbury.sch.life/Page/Detail/what-do-we-teach-in-each-subject->



New Learning Support Assistants



Miss Holden



Mrs Begum



Miss McEwan

New Site Staff



Mr Adams



Mrs Cooper

Annual Calendar

PLEASE USE THIS CALENDAR TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH EVENTS IN SCHOOL WE ADD EVENTS TO THE ANNUAL CALENDAR ON A REGULAR BASIS.

PLEASE CHECK THE ONLINE ANNUAL CALENDAR
REGULARLY FOR ANY CHANGES/ADDITIONS, THIS CAN BE FOUND ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE.

<http://www.oldparkprimary.com/news/annual-calendar/>

January 2025

Tue 14th Jan	Y6 SATs parent briefing 3:20 pm - Hall
Wed 15th Jan	Year 3 Swimming 2.15 - 2.45 3MG
Fri 17th Jan	Reception - Vision Screening - Morning Year 3 Forest School Session Swimming 1.45 - 2.15 (small group)
Wed 22nd Jan	Year 3 Swimming 2.15 - 2.45 3MG. 6M - Cooking at WG Academy. 1 - 3pm. 20 children only
Fri 24th Jan	Swimming 1.45 - 2.15
Tue 28th Jan	Exploration Day for EYFS, Y1, 2 & 3 Y4 Multiplication Check Parent Briefing 3:20 pm - Hall
Wed 29th Jan	Year 3 Swimming 2.15 - 2.45 3MG Young Voices 1.15pm to approximately 9.30 pm
Fri 31st Jan	Swimming 1.45 - 2.15 (small group)

February 2025

Mon 3rd Feb	Inclusion Awareness Week - Workshops across the week
Tue 4th Feb	Exploration Day for Year 4, 5 & 6
Wed 5th Feb	Year 3 Swimming 2.15 - 2.45 3MG. 6W/6M (20 children only) Cooking at WG Academy 1 - 3pm
Fri 7th Feb	Swimming 1.45 - 2.15 (small group)
Tue 11th Feb	Year 3 History Experience Day
Wed 12th Feb	Year 3 Swimming 2.15 - 2.45 3MG
Thur 13th Feb	House Attendance Winner - Non-Uniform Day (for the winning house only). School Closes for Half Term
Fri 14th Feb	School Closed for a training day
Mon 24th Feb	School Re-Opens Gratitude Week Wear a Hat for Hydrocephalus (donations to be made via Just Giving link sent by email)
Tue 25th Feb	Children will be creating their t-shirts for World Book Day, Children to bring in their design ideas today. EYFS, Year 1 and 2 parent consultations Rec and Year 2 - from 3.20pm Nursery - from 3.30pm
Wed 26th Feb	Year 3 Swimming 2.15 - 2.45 3MG 6W 20 - children only - cooking at WG Academy EYFS, Year 1 and 2 parent consultations Rec and Year 2 - from 3.20pm Nursery - from 3.30pm
Thur 27th Feb	Year 2 Forest School Session
Fri 28th Feb	Non-uniform wear Monty Blue - School Values Day 50p to school fund Swimming 1.45 - 2.15 (small group)

Admission Arrangements - September 2025

Reception Class admissions

Please note, the closing date is the **15th January 2025** for both Sandwell and Walsall MBC.

Can you please inform the school office when you have completed your online application either by emailing school.office@oldparkprimary.com.

Please check you have received an online receipt as confirmation you have submitted your application correctly. It is important to keep this receipt safe.

Communication & Provision

As you are aware our main form of communication is email. Although we are aware that many parents prefer text message communications this is a costly provision. Therefore email communications will continue as the school works to cut costs to avoid staffing and resourcing cuts. Unfortunately, the school is in the position where funding limitations means that we have to make difficult decisions regarding expenditure in all areas. The senior leadership team and the governing body look to prioritise spend to ensure safety and learning. However, this means that we are not able to always provide provision to the children in the ways we have in previous years.

We thank you for your continued support.

The school office staff are available from 8.15am-4.15pm (Monday-Thursday) and 8.15am-4.00pm (Fridays). 0121 526 2669.

Any queries please call or email school.office@oldparkprimary.com or call 0121 526 2669. You can also message via Arbor.

If you telephone the school *before* 8.15am and after 4.15pm, you will hear the following message and options:-

Please leave a message or call back during our open hours or alternatively email school.office@oldparkprimary.com

Press 1 to report your child's absence (voicemail)

Press 2 to speak to the school office

**IF YOU ARE REPORTING YOUR CHILD ABSENT PLEASE GIVE US THE
REASON FOR THIS ABSENCE.**



Thank you to everyone who has donated generously to make this raffle extra special. Thanks to all of our families for supporting us in the purchase of tickets and congratulations to all of our winners.



School Fund Contributions

School fund is extremely important to help us provide wider experiences for our children at Old Park. All funds raised subsidise many opportunities, including:

- Resources for our Exploration Days, where children explore a range of activities that are not provided through the normal curriculum.
- Playground equipment to be used at lunchtimes.
- Equipment for Forest School sessions, that our children are lucky enough to immerse themselves in.
- Equipment for our careers and Skills Builder projects which develop the children's ambition and essential skills.
- Theatre company visits or visiting expert experiences.

School Fund can be made via Arbor, School Shop. We would like to thank you for your support with this, as without it, we could not offer the wonderful 'extras' that we do.

LOGO SCHOOL UNIFORM/PE KIT UPDATE

The school uniform is as follows:

Red sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan

Red or white shirt, polo shirt or t-shirt

Grey or black trousers, skirt or pinafore (jogging bottoms are not acceptable)

Black flat shoes (not trainers)

Pe Kit:

PE T-Shirts (red, blue yellow, green - house colours)

Black Tracksuit (plain)



You can now purchase logo school uniform and PE tops from the following suppliers:

Clive Marks store in Walsall or by clicking here <https://clivemark.co.uk/>,

SchoolClothing4U Store in Wednesbury or by clicking <https://schoolclothing4u.com/>

CC Uniforms in West Bromwich or by clicking <https://www.ccuniforms.co.uk/>

Black Tracksuits can be purchased from: (or purchase plain black from any supermarket:([click here for the link to the decathlon tracksuit](#))).

As always you do not need to purchase uniform with the logo.

Reception Children Over 5'S
Please let us know if your child still requires milk after their 5th birthday. It has to be ordered and costs 28p per day - payable on Arbor. 'School Shop' (year 2 and below)



IF ANY PARENT WISHES TO BUY A WATER BOTTLE THEY ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE £1.65 (CASH ONLY)



Book Bags/Satchels

We have red book bags for sale (Nursery to Year 2) and also satchels (Year 3 to Year 6)

Prices:

Red Book Bags £6.50

Satchels Red (New Logo) £8.50

Please order on Arbor and let the school office know.



BIRTHDAYS

Please do not send your child into school with sweets or chocolates for Birthdays. Natasha's law is in place to protect children and ensures any food provided by or via the school has to be agreed in advance by parents.

If you wish to send in something to mark a birthday celebration you can send in non-food items or wrap a book for the class reading area.



SCHOOL LUNCHES - SCHOOL GRID

Please be mindful that Dolce has a pre-payment system so you will no longer be able to book meals and pay later.

If your child has moved from Year 2 to 3 then unless you are in receipt of free school meals you will need to make payment for the meals ordered. Universal Free Schools meals are for Reception, year 1 & 2 pupils only.



There are lot of uneaten meals due to parents booking but also sending in a packed lunch. We do not want to waste food so please unbook the meal if it is not wanted.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE IT UNTIL THE MORNING TO TRY TO LOG ONTO SCHOOL GRID TO BOOK A SCHOOL MEAL. YOUR CHILD WILL ONLY RECEIVE A JACKET POTATO/SANDWICH IF THE SITE IS UNAVAILABLE.

Thank you

Breakfast Care Provision

The School provides a Breakfast Provision. If you are interested in applying for annual membership please contact: breakfast@oldparkprimary.com

Children will be provided with breakfast each day and take part in a range of activities.

Annual Membership options are below:

Cost: £4.50 Early Bird from 7.45am each day

Cost: £3.50 Normal from 7.30am each day

After School Provision

The School provides an After School Provision. If you think you will require a place for After School Provision, please contact afterschool@oldparkprimary.com

Children will be provided with a light snack and take part in a range of activities.

Annual Membership options are below:

Cost: £9.00 each day until 5.00pm

Cost: £10.50 each day until 5.30pm

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Please be aware that there is a waiting list.

Please read the Policies for our terms and conditions of membership on our website.

Parents are reminded that if children are absent either for sickness or holiday, payment for days missed will still need to be paid. If your child is poorly and unable to attend please email the appropriate email address.

Payments are made through a Standing Order payable on 28th of each month for 11 months (not July 28th).

Please read our policy and terms and conditions before applying for annual membership. The policies can be found on the school website.

PAYMENTS FOR NURSERY 30, BREAKFAST CARE PROVISION AND AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION

CAN WE REMIND PARENTS TO SET UP THEIR STANDING ORDER PAYMENTS FOR THE 28TH OF EACH MONTH. THIS WILL ENSURE YOU DO NOT ACCRUE A £10.00 LATE CHARGE.

THANK YOU TO THOSE PARENTS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SET UP A STANDING ORDER.

From September 2024, the new National Framework for issuing penalty notices will apply

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span over different terms and school years.

Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued per parent per child.

For example: 3 Siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

1

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term Time Holiday or Irregular School Attendance the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence

(within 3 years of the First Offence)

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

(Unpaid Penalty Notices after 28 days may result in a prosecution)

2

3

Third Offence and any further Offences

(within 3 years of the First Offence)

The third time that an offence is committed for either a term time holiday and/or Irregular attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case may be proceeded straight to prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure.

If found guilty of the offence of 'failure to secure their child's regular attendance at a school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1,000 and you will have a criminal record

PLEASE NOTE: If you take any Leave of Absence PRIOR to 19th August 2024 (e.g. in July 2024) then the Penalty Notice will be at the old rate of £60/£120. Any Leave of Absence taken in September 2024 will be charged at the new rates as above.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

12 Social Media

Online Safety Tips

FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS



Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.

2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Keep your personal information personal. Sometime people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.

3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE



This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.

4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS



This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.

5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION



Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.

6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME



Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.

7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES



Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.

8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.

9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE



Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.

10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD



This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.

11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA



When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.

12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY



Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.