

RIBBLETON AVENUE METHODIST JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs F Nickson BA Hons PGCE
www.ramjs.lancs.sch.uk

06.09.2024

Message from Mrs Nickson



Welcome back to our new school year 2024 / 2025. We have hit the ground running already and the children have already been working really hard throughout school.

Welcome to our new Year 3 pupils and their families; we hope your first week has been a huge success and any anxieties have been overcome now we have come to the end of week one.

Thank you to those parents who joined us for meet the parents on Thursday; this was a lovely opportunity to meet families both old and new, and hopefully this has helped give you a chance to get to know your new class teachers and important information that will be useful throughout the rest of the year. This information will be shared on our school website and parents can access this information via this link on the school website: www.ramjs.lancs.sch.uk/class-pages/

I have been delighted to see how smart children have looked in their uniform and I would like this to continue as we progress through the academic year. Looking smart helps us promote our values of Respect and Ambition and I believe, raises our aspirations.

Have a wonderful weekend and we will look forward to seeing everybody next week.

Autumn Term Diary Dates

16.09.2024	Photographer in School
18.10.2024	Jack and the Beanstalk performance in school
21.10.2024- 25.10.2024	Half Term
31.10.2024	Halloween Disco
05.11.2024	Parents Evening
06.11.2024	Parents Evening
08.11.2024	Non-Uniform Day in Exchange for Chocolate for Raffle
18.11.2024- 29.11.2024	5M Swimming Lessons
02.12.2024- 13.12.2024	5R Swimming Lessons
12.12.2024	Family Festive Fun Night
17.12.2024	Carol Singing
18.12.2024	Christmas Dinner
19.12.2024	a.m. Pantomime Trip p.m. Christmas Raffle
20.12.2024	Christmas Party Day


To all Year 6 Parents/Carers

It is coming up to the time of year where your high school applications have to be submitted by 31st October. You can apply online via Lancashire County Council however if you are struggling online there is a paper application form to download in the advice and support tab in the link below. You can also pop into school and Louise our family support worker has lots of paper copies.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-online-for-a-school-place/>



Stars of the Week

Year	Stars
	 The Hive— Harper The Nest—Abdul
3	 3M— All of the Class 3R— All of the Class
4	4M— Janulya 4R— Riley
 5	 5M— Dane 5R— Yousuf
6	6M— Maryam 6R— Charlie

Attendance & Punctuality

“Moments Matter, Attendance Counts”

Welcome back— We will be sharing our attendance celebrations with you next week. But lets see how we did for on our first day back:

Our school target is 97%

Attendance – 1 st day only – 3/9/24		Punctuality – 1 st day only – 3/9/24	
3M	96.7%	3M	0 lates
3R	90.3%	3R	1 lates
4M	93.9%	4M	0 lates
4R	94.4%	4R	1 lates
5M	94.1%	5M	0 lates
5R	91.2%	5R	1 late
6M	100%	6M	0 lates
6R	88.6%	6R	2 lates
Overall	93.6%	Overall	5 lates

Attendance and Punctuality

Fact: National attendance at school has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels and this is worrying, any attendance below 96% is a real concern as this would equate to 40 learning hours being lost. Most pupils who have good school attendance have a greater chance of reaching their academic potential.

Please note: By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must get a suitable full time education.

Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School are committed to enabling all our children to achieve and sustain outstanding attendance and punctuality. We work in partnership with you to ensure this does happen. Effective partnership between school and home are essential to ensuring good attendance and punctuality.

Authorised Absences – Under the provisions of the Education Act 1993 **only the school and not the parents** can authorise the absence.

Attendance & Punctuality

As part of our attendance monitoring, school monitor every child's attendance, if your child falls at any point during the Academic Year below our 97% target (regardless of the absence being authorised or unauthorised) Parents are notified by a "courtesy" text informing them when their child 1st falls below school's target of 97% and/or their punctuality starts to be an issue. This attendance is then monitored on a 4wkly cycle until their child rises above 97%. 4wkly texts/letters will be issued to parents during their child's monitoring periods. (Improvement and deterioration or request for meetings) School uses several different monitoring systems, e.g texts home, Parent meetings, Attendance Agreements and Penalty notices (see new guidance on the next page)

However, should your child's attendance cause further concern during this monitoring period, school may put in further initiatives. If this happens parents will be invited to speak to the Attendance Manager and Family Support Worker to discuss supporting your child's attendance. This also includes punctuality issues. Children's individual absences both authorised and unauthorised will be taken into consideration when monitoring further. Medical evidence maybe requested for illness periods.

Please ensure you notify school when your child is not going to be attending. This can be done by either contacting the office and speaking to staff or leaving a message on the absence line. See information "Is my child too ill to be in school). Any medical appointments need to be made outside school if and where possible. Proof of appointments will be required.

Please refer to our Attendance policies on our Website.

Attendance Email address: Attendance@ramjs.lancs.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Attendance Matters – facts:

If your child has 90% attendance, they will have the equivalent of:-

- ◆ ½ day off per week
- ◆ 19 days off per year
- ◆ 247 days off over their school career of 13 Academic years – equivalent to over 1 year of lost learning.

Every Day Counts:

- ◆ 10 days absence equals 95% attendance – 2 weeks off
- ◆ 20 days absence equals 89% attendance – 4 weeks off
- ◆ 29 days absence equals 85% attendance – 6 weeks off

Government class 90% or lower as being persistent absence

Days off add up to periods of lost learning:-

- ◆ **190 school days** – children should be in school
- ◆ **175 non-school days** – these days can be spent and used for holidays, days out, family time, medical appointments etc



Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes came into force for Penalty Notice Fines on

19th August 2024.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

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

5 consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days.

10 Sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

**(AM mark = 1 session & PM mark = 1 session)
(1 school day = 2 sessions)**

Penalty notice fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period which may span different terms or school years. Absences may also include lates after the register closes.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£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)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

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

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period. The third time an offence, or subsequent offences are committed for Term Time leave or Irregular Attendance, another course of action will need to be considered such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions.

Prosecution may result in a fine of up to £2500. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate.

Please Note: The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.



MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.



DfE have launched a national campaign about the importance of school attendance. “Moments Matter, Attendance Counts”. You will see posters in and around school promoting good attendance. School will continue to work with parents to promote good attendance & punctuality.

“From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child #AttendanceCounts”

Attendance Matters - the top facts:

The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- In 2018/2019, Just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.
- and 36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and Maths GCSEs, also compared with 84% of regular attenders. (1)

And it's never too late to benefit from good attendance:

- More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years. (2)

But attendance is important for more than just attainment:

- Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing. (3)

1. [The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4, Academic year 2018/2019 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

2. [Missing Children, Missing Grades / Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

3. [Mental Health and Attendance at School \(Chapter 1\) - Mental Health and Attendance at School \(cambridge.org\)](https://www.cambridge.org/core)



**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

"Moments Matter, Attendance Counts" **Attendance Information & Monitoring**

**MOMENTS
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Nationally, as you may be aware from the news, attendance is a concern as attendance rates have dropped significantly since the pandemic. As a school we strive to be above national average attendance but this is below what it should be and will disadvantage many young people if their attendance falls below around 95% (the equivalent of missing more than 10 days in school).

Please remember that there is clear evidence that poor attendance leads to poorer outcomes and ensure your child/ren are in school unless absolutely unavoidable. Government guidance on sickness absence is also outlined in the newsletter.

Where attendance falls below our target of 97% students will be monitored by the Attendance Manager (See Attendance and Punctuality Monitoring below) who will work closely with their class teacher and other school staff to support your child.

Please note: By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must get a suitable full time education.

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Authorised Absences – Under the provisions of the Education Act 1993 **only the school and not the parents** can authorise the absence.

Attendance & Punctuality Monitoring

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However, should your child's attendance cause further concern during this monitoring period, school may put in further initiatives. If this happens parents will be invited to speak to the Attendance Manager and Family Support Worker to discuss supporting your child's attendance. This also includes punctuality issues. Children's individual absences both authorised and unauthorised will be taken into consideration when monitoring further. Medical evidence maybe requested for illness periods. School works closely with the Local authority Attendance Team.

Please ensure you notify school when your child is not going to be attending. This can be done by either contacting the office and speaking to staff or leaving a message on the absence line. Any medical appointments need to be made outside school if and where possible. Proof of appointments will be required.

Please refer to our Attendance policies on our Website.

Attendance Email address: Attendance@ramjs.lancs.sch.uk

Is My Child too ill to be in school ?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason. **School will follow up on every absence, every time.**

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

Other illness:

Follow this advice for illnesses:-

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [common cold](#). But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

High temperature

If your child has a [high temperature](#), keep them off school until it goes away.

Chickenpox

If your child has [chickenpox](#), keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over.

This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Cold sores

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a [cold sore](#).

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have [conjunctivitis](#). **But School recommend you seek medical advice and get eye drops before coming to school if conjunctivitis is suspected.**

Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

COVID-19

If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school.

Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have [symptoms of COVID-19](#) and they either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities

Ear infection

If your child has an [ear infection](#) and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child has [hand, foot and mouth disease](#) but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.

You can treat [head lice and nits](#) without seeing a GP.

Impetigo

If your child has [impetigo](#), they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics.

Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment.

Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

If your child has [ringworm](#), see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP.

It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

If your child has [scarlet fever](#), they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.

Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [slapped cheek syndrome](#) because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious.

But let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a [sore throat](#). But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away.

A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of [tonsillitis](#).

Threadworms

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [threadworms](#).

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with [diarrhoea or vomiting](#) should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Please ensure you contact school if your child is going to be absent.

"Moments Matter, Attendance Counts"



Fulwood
academy

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 12th September

4.30pm-7.30pm

www.fulwoodacademy.co.uk

01772 719060

We Care • We Challenge • We Commit


Ofsted
Good
Provider

This is a GOOD School