Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School NEWSLETTER—23rd September 2022



Our school value this half term is: "Generosity"

'God loves a cheerful giver'

2 Corinthian 9.7

Notices

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Harvest Service & Macmillan Coffee Morning

Parents, grandparents and carers are warmly invited to attend the Harvest Service in church on Friday 7th October at 9.15 a.m. followed by the Macmillan Coffee Morning in school. We would very much appreciate donations of cakes from Monday 3rd October. Children should be brought into school at the usual time and parents may go directly to church in time for the service. We would appreciate donations of non-perishable food for children to offer at the service which will be donated to Ormskirk food bank. The children will then be escorted by their teachers to church. We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

All children from Reception to Year 6 will be offered the nasal flu vaccination in school on **Tuesday 8th November**.

If you would like your child to receive the nasal flu vaccine in school, please follow the link below to complete an online consent form. The link contains the consent form and additional information such as FAQs regarding the vaccination. The link will close on Tuesday 1st November.

https://www.nhsimms.uk/FLU/information?Id=119370&Type=FLU

Secondary School Admissions

Year 6 parents please note the following:-

All applicants can apply via Lancashire County Council now by clicking here.

The statutory closing date is **31st October 2022** at 23:59. You must apply even if your child already has older siblings in the school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

Healthy Snacks

Please see the 'Healthy Snacks' document attached to the newsletter section of our website. We would also like to remind everyone that we have a strict **NO NUTS** policy.

Up and coming dates for your diary

For the full list of dates for the Autumn Term click here

Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th September—School photographs
Thursday 29th September—Year 4 to Martin Mere
Friday 7th October—Harvest Service at Aughton Christ Church
Friday 7th October—Macmillan Coffee Morning

Attendance

Please see page 2 of the newsletter.

Church Notices

Bumps and Babies

Couples who are pregnant or who have babies under the age of 9 months are welcome to attend for support, chat, advice and friendship. The group will meet on Mondays from 10am upstairs in Christ Church Ministry Centre.

Tower Open Day—24th September

For the first time in 3 years, we are opening our church tower again for visitors to enjoy the outstanding views and see the bell-ringers in action. Refreshments available. Children under 10 are not permitted up the tower. Free tickets are available through Eventbrite at the below here.

Organist Recital

On Saturday 24th September 7pm, we look forward to welcoming Professor Ian Tracey, organist titular of Liverpool Cathedral for a 90 minute recital 'Last night of the proms'. Professor Tracey will be joined by Jack Watson, Vocal Soloist. Programs are now available from the church office for £15, which includes a glass of Prosecco.

After School Club Notices



Attendance

I am also asking for your support in improving whole school attendance and punctuality as we move into the next academic year. Everyone has received their child's attendance as part of their school report. It is important to acknowledge that, in our school, many children have very high attendance. Indeed, if your child has attained 97% or above, their attendance is in line with our target and is **outstanding** attendance this year. We also understand that there are reasons for absence on occasion and we will always work with families who have specific concerns and ensure we can overcome barriers together. During the COVID pandemic it was necessary for pupils and families to isolate if they or a close contact tested positive. That is not now the case and it is essential that we take a whole school approach to return to our previous positive attendance rates.

The impact upon children's education through lost learning is huge. At a time when so much education has been disrupted it is vital that we make every school minute count. I urge you to ensure that your child is in school and on time every day to prevent anyone falling behind with their learning. Persistent cases where poor attendance and punctuality do not improve can be considered to be *neglect*.

Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of **90**% or below is persistent absence which will be closely monitored by school staff. Failing to improve on this **90**% can lead to prosecution, which school want to help families avoid.

This year our whole school attendance has been **94.71** %. There are clearly differing reasons for this and one of our priorities is to ensure we meet our usual high standards and set targets as we head into next year.

Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School has set a whole school attendance **target** which is **97%** as, before the pandemic our attendance rates were always consistently between **97% and 98%**. There are things you can do to improve your child's attendance and avoid falling into the persistent absence category. It is important to remember that any time out of school can lead to fines and prosecution.

If your child is unwell and you are unsure whether to send them to school, contact the office to seek advice on 01695 421391

Avoid taking any holidays during term times. NO holidays will be authorised. We will again be applying our strict policies which include fines for taking holidays in term time. It is Government law that holidays cannot be approved by the Headteacher in term time. All families are asked to not book any holidays during term time for the up and coming school year. Keep up to date with what percentage attendance your child has so that you know if they are at risk of persistent absence (office staff will provide this for you). Speak to school staff with any concerns. Talk to your child about the importance of them being in school and let them know how important you feel it is. The table below provides an example of the impact of lost learning through pupil absence:

Attendance % over	Equal to number	Converted to approximate	Approximate number	School Concern Level
a school year	of days absent	weeks of absence	of lessons missed	
95%	9.5	2	47.5	Pupil can catch up and still succeed
90%	19	4	95	Poor attendance We are concerned
80%	38	8	190	Very poor attendance We are very concerned
70%	57	12	285	Serious concerns

^{*} So a child who has an absence percentage of 80% has missed 38 days of school and has missed 190 lessons.

Punctuality is also highly important. Pupils who arrive late to school are not only losing learning but also disrupting the learning of others as they arrive late for lessons. Pupils do not like being late into school and we witness how upsetting it can be for them. We want to prevent this. Our school doors open at 8:45 am to allow children to become settled and begin their learning. They **MUST** be in school for 8:55am for the start of registration. The table below provides an example of the impact of lost learning through pupil lateness.

Number of minutes late per day over a school year	Approximate equivalent number of days lost learning	
5	3	
10	6.5	
15	10	
20	13	

We also want to help families get their child to school on time. Here are some things you can try:

Have everything you/your child needs for school prepared the night before

Ensure that your child goes to bed reasonably so they are not too tired to get up in the morning

Ensure your child has a good night's sleep by minimising their use of devices at bed time

Have a consistent bedtime routine for your child

Set an alarm to allow plenty of time for your morning routine in getting to school on time

Bring your child to breakfast club (8:00am – 8.45am).

At Aughton Christ Church Primary school, we will be informing you of your child's **attendance** and **punctuality** at **parents evening** and in **termly letters**. We will always work with families regarding any concerns about attendance or any potential barriers so I ask anyone with concerns to contact me.

Thank you for your support.