



# Newsletter 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

*Learning, growing and achieving excellence together*

## Key dates: September

- Tues 17th: Parent reading volunteer workshops. 9am
- Tues 17th: Y5 & Y6 parent meetings 3.20pm
- Wed 18th: Y1 & Y2 parent meetings at 3.15pm
- Thurs 19th: Y3 & Y4 parent meetings 3.20pm
- Fri 20th: House captain and Sports leader elections
- Mond 23rd: Head and SLT coffee morning 9am
- Tues 24th: Y5 & Y6 swimming gala 1.30pm
- Tues 24th: Parent workshop Understanding neurodiversity and therapeutic approaches to behaviour 5pm
- Wed 25th - SEND coffee morning 8.45am - 10am KS2 Hall
- Wed 25th: Y5 & Y6 Talented Athlete launch (selected children) 1.30pm - 4pm

## House Point Results



**Winning House  
Petworth**



**Cowdray**  
594

**Parham**  
548

**Goodwood**  
460

**Petworth**  
599

## Dear Parents and Carers,

My section this week is an attendance reminder. We are at the beginning of a new academic year so it is important to start as we mean to go on and ensure attendance is key for our children.

## Re. Attendance Matters

You may have seen on the news that the government brought new attendance regulations into force for September 2024 and schools will be held accountable for upholding them.

**We know attendance is really important and has a direct link to achievement.**

## What do we want?

We want all our children to be over 97% attendance (less than 5 days absence in the year) and at worst over 95% (less than 10 days absence).

It's amazing to think that if a child is **90% attendance every year for their school life** they essentially missed a whole school year.

Below is a useful diagram to explain absence further

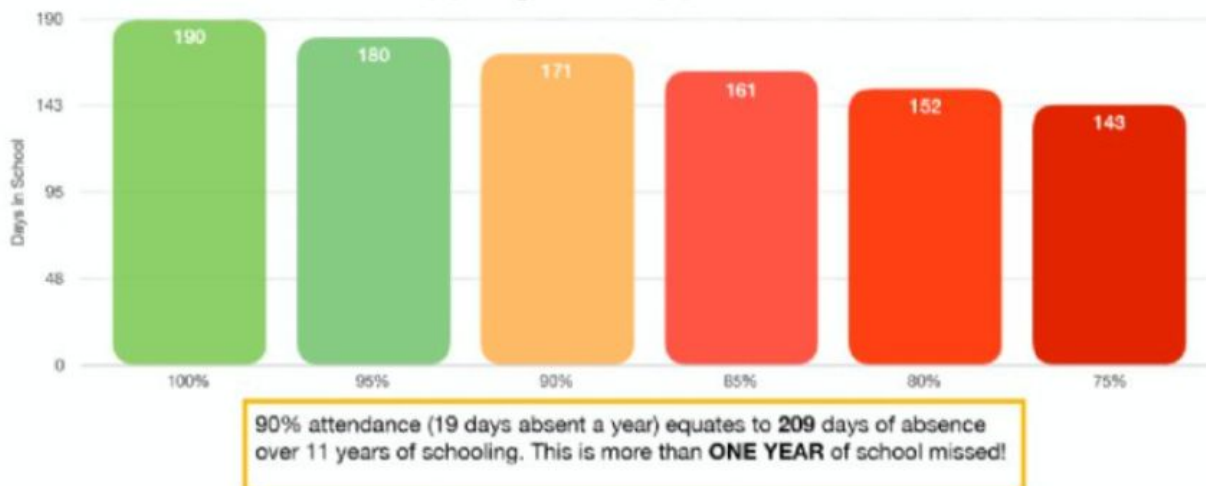


1 Year = 365 Days

190 School Days

175 Days Holiday!

175 Days holiday a year for friends, family, visits, holidays, shopping and appointments.



### New fixed penalty notice information (FPN)

Absence fines charged to parents will rise from £60 to £80, or £160 if not paid within 21 days.

From the autumn, only two fines can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a three-year rolling period. Any second notice will automatically be charged at £160.

New “notices to improve” will also be the “final opportunity for a parent to engage in support and improve attendance before a penalty notice is issued”.

For further please information see the DfE Working together to improve school attendance document: Working together to improve school attendance (applies from 19 August 2024) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))

Please contact Neil Matthews or myself should you have any concerns around attendance. Working together is the best way to support our children at Billingshurst.

Kind regards

Marion Ley

We have welcomed our new Early Years children this week and we are so incredibly proud of how brilliantly they have settled in! The children have been introduced to our newly decorated classrooms, and they have loved exploring our Learning Garden. The children are enjoying exploring the new environment with small world and large construction being very popular. We hope the children have a restful weekend before their first full week next week.



**MEET THE TEACHER MEETINGS** - A quick reminder that next week we are holding 'meet the teacher' meetings after school where you will have a chance to meet your child's new team and hear about the coming year. We will put a creche on in a next door class for children.

**Tuesday 17th 3.20pm**

Yr 5: Blackman - Mrs Rozental and Mrs Stripp classroom

Yr 6: Pullman - Mrs Cogram classroom

**Wednesday 18th 3.15pm**

Yr 1: Percival - Ms Mason and Ms Jolley classroom

Yr 2: Browne - Mrs Steer classroom

**Thursday 19th 3.20pm**

Yr 3: Henn - Mr Hampson classroom

Yr 4: Rundell - Mrs Mujik classroom



We are delighted that our KS2 Choir will be attending the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena on Tuesday 4th February 2025! If your child is in KS2 Choir, please look out for the letter that is coming home today. This includes important information about signing up, audience tickets, coaches and learning the songs at home. There are 84 children going this year and we are thrilled that our children love singing so much!



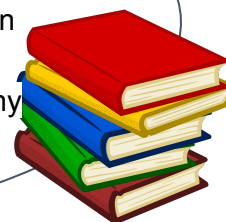
Please welcome Emily Folan from SaltPost to our school. Emily is a qualified speech and language therapist who has worked with children with a diverse range of communication needs. Emily joined SaltPost in 2018 and works with a number of schools across the Sussex Learning Trust. Emily will be in school on a Wednesday morning each week and will be based in the staffroom. Please pop by and say hello!



**We would like to invite all parents, carers and grandparents to come and join our fantastic team of Reading Volunteers!**

If you have time to spare during the school week to listen to our children read, then please come to our reading training on 17th September at 9am. In the meantime, if you would like any more information or have any questions please contact the school office:

[office@billingshurstprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@billingshurstprimary.org.uk)



**Note from the Governors:** On Wednesday, the governing body met for our first meeting of the academic year. The focus of this meeting was to agree roles and responsibilities, review the draft academy development plan and set out monitoring priorities and timetable for the year ahead. During this first half term, in addition to our half termly budget review, governors will be monitoring the following: safeguarding, reading, maths, PE and art.

**BPA bees (formally BPSCA)** - We will be holding our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in school on Monday 7th October at 3.30pm. We will report on last year's fundraising and activities, as well as elect the new committee. Any parent or carer of children currently at the school is welcome to join us. We are always looking for new members to join us. This year we are also specifically seeking a new treasurer. If you are interested, please come along to our next meeting on Friday 4th October at 2pm in the staff room.

\*We are currently experiencing problems receiving emails. Please contact us via the school or our Facebook page for now.\*

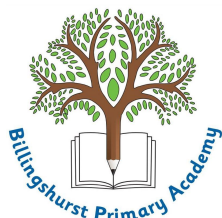
**Letters home this week:**

Year 3 + 4 - Learning times tables at home

KS2 Choir - Young Voices Sign Up

Swimming Gala 5&6 - Selected pupils only

Talented Athletes 5&6 - Selected pupils only



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