



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Headteacher Comment:

Does a high attendance at school matter and does it really matter if we go on holiday in term time?

Yes, and Yes!

This week I gave out certificates to all the children in the school who had 100% attendance in the spring term. This was about 100 children (25%) of the school. Considering the amount of illness that was around this winter, I think this is pretty good.

What was even better was that there are still 38 children who have 100% attendance for the whole year and our average attendance for a school is above the national average.

Post pandemic schools are seeing lower attendance and it is becoming a problem nationally. As much as we are above the national average, the gap is closing.

To answer my first question above in more detail, yes, high attendance matters. A Department for Education (DfE) article from last year stated:

The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.

Data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

With our Year 6 children about to take their SATs in just over a week this is quite a telling statistic. We know that those with high attendance are likely to do better.

Sometimes children get ill or have to have operation, we even have to send children home sometimes because they become unwell, and this can't be helped. Children can still come to school with a cold or cough, it is only when they are really ill they need to be off.

To answer my second question above in more detail, we know that holidays in term time are cheaper when demand is lower. However, whilst everyone's finances are more and more tight, it is not ok to take a holiday in term time. School staff can't. The DfE are recognising the issue of term time holidays, and school attendance in general and are putting in measures next year to help improve it, including increasing the amount that local authorities issue in penalty notices.

Our attendance this week has just about average again, let's hope it starts to rise above this and back up towards our target of 96%.

Trips and visitors

As you know from the dates below, each year group has a trip planned and Year 4 have been on their trip today to Duxford. These trips tie in with what the children are learning in class (Year 4 have been learning about the Battle of Britain). Each year group also has a visitor in to work with them on an area of the curriculum. Year 3 had a Roman visitor a week ago and Year 5 had a visitor today to talk to them about the Shang Dynasty. It is things like this that mean children want to come to school.



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Sunflower update

I hope the sunflower seeds have all germinated and are growing strongly. If you haven't re-potted them yet, this weekend is the time to do it. Probably worth keeping them inside still though. #Larchwoodtwin

Please post update pictures on X / Twitter and if you are not already following us, make sure you do. You will be able to see all the amazing things going on.

Word of the Week

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Area	Drama	Draft	Foundation	Emerge	Regulate	Indicate



Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Jessica in 5L for demonstrating all of the school values.



Stars of the Week

RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B
Thomas D	Fraiser	Neve	Nasema	Zarish	Lyla	Olivia
3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R
Mia	Temulin	Tolunay	Elsie	Tamana	Alfie	Isaac



Reading at Home

Better this week so thank you to those parents who have read more. Well done to the 5 classes where everyone read.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 29 th April to Friday 3 rd May			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RM	4 (18%)	1 (15%)	18 (67%)	19 (82%)
RT	6 (23%)	4 (15%)	16 (62%)	20 (77%)
1A	4 (13%)	10 (33%)	16 (54%)	26 (87%)
1P	2 (6%)	4 (40%)	15 (54%)	19 (94%)
2C	1 (3%)	8 (29%)	19 (68%)	27 (97%)
2G	4 (15%)	3 (12%)	19 (73%)	22 (84%)
3B	0 (0%)	7 (24%)	22 (76%)	29 (100%)
3C	4 (15%)	6 (21%)	18 (64%)	24 (85%)
4LC	0 (0%)	10 (34%)	20 (66%)	30 (100%)
4T	0 (0%)	7 (25%)	21 (75%)	28 (100%)
5L	2 (7%)	4 (14%)	22 (79%)	26 (93%)
5P	3 (11%)	2 (7%)	23 (82%)	25 (89%)
6C	0 (0%)	3 (12%)	23 (88%)	26 (100%)
6R	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	26 (96%)	27 (100%)
Total				92%



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Diary Dates

Below are some of the important dates coming up this term:

Friday 3 rd May	Year 4 Trip – Duxford IWM
Friday 10 th May	LPPA donut sale
Monday 13 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Thursday 6 th June	Year 5 Trip – Colchester Zoo
Monday 17 th June	Reception, Year 1 and 2 sports day (am)
Wednesday 19 th June	Year 3 – 6 sports day (am)
Thursday 20 th June	LPPA Bingo Night
Thursday 27 th June	Year 3 Trip – Chelmsford Museum
Friday 28 th June	Year 1 Trip – Barleylands
Friday 5 th July	LPPA Big Barbeque and Bounce (after school)
Wednesday 10 th July	Year 2 Trip – Thorndon Country Park
Monday 15 th July	Year 6 Residential Trip – Mersea Outdoors
Wednesday 17 th July	Reception Trip – Boydells Dairy Farm
Monday 22 nd July	Celebration Evening
Thursday 25 th July	Last day of term



Weekly Attendance

Well done to 4LC this week for the highest attendance.

Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 28th April 2024

Class	RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B	Whole school
Attendance	95%	92.2%	95.3%	95.3%	94.7%	95.2%	93%	
Class	3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R	94.5%
Attendance	96.3%	98.3%	94.7%	95.2%	93.1%	95.4%	89.7%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
4LC	3C	6C



Yearly Attendance

Yearly Attendance – from 6th September 2023

Class	RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B	Whole school
Attendance	95.7%	92.8%	95.3%	95.8%	96.3%	95.2%	96.2%	
Class	3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R	95.3%
Attendance	95.9%	95.3%	94.6%	94.9%	95.7%	96.6%	93.3%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
6C	2C	3B



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