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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back!

We hope that you had a great summer break and that your children have enjoyed their first few days back in school. It has been lovely to see them all together, looking smart and warmly welcoming the new children to our school community. Well done everyone!

I wanted to write today to make you aware of a few things at the start of the new academic year.

Staffing Changes

Miss Miller is now in her post as Deputy Headteacher. She has already proven to be a great support in the leadership of the school this week and I am certain that she will support the school to make further improvement this year.

As well as multiple new children, we have also welcomed Miss Sharpe and Mr Mitchinson to our staff team this year. Miss Sharpe is the new Year 4 class teacher and Mr Mitchinson will provide support as a senior teaching assistant in Key stage 2 and at after school club. Miss Eve (Year 2), Mrs Sparke (Year 1) and Mrs Brown (Early Years and Year 4) will also continue to work in school this year.

I am also sad to inform you that our site manager, Mr Graham will be leaving us in October. Ken is taking up some additional hours in his other workplace so will no longer be able to fulfil his duties here. We wish him well and thank him for all his hard work over the last three years.

Attendance

Thank you for making it a positive start to the year with good punctuality and attendance thus far. As mentioned in previous newsletters last year, the drive to improve school attendance continues this year. We have updated our policy accordingly and wanted to make you aware of changes that have come into force since 19th August 2024 around unauthorised attendance in term time (please see DfE information on page 3 of this letter). Our updated attendance policy is also available through the key information section of the school website.

Wraparound Care

Our breakfast and after school clubs now take place in a new room within school called 'The Den'. It is one of the spare classrooms which is located between the Early Years doors and the KS2 entrance from the yard. We have added various new games and activities and will continue to do so as the year progresses. We have also added a new intercom/gate security system so that parents picking up from after school club can now collect children directly from The Den. Parents who are dropping off at Breakfast Club can also drop their children off directly by accessing the school yard in the mornings. Further instructions will be made available to those using the service.



Meet the Teacher

Our Meet the Teacher evening will take place on Wednesday 11th September between 3:20-4:30pm this year. This will provide you with an opportunity to come and meet new staff, visit new classrooms and find out about what is in store for your child in their new year groups. We will continue to provide regular information and insights via the Class Dojo for those who cannot attend.

After School Clubs

Carlisle United will continue to offer clubs on a Monday night this year. This half term, football club will be for children in Years 5 and 6. Mrs Brooks will also offer a choir club on Fridays. Our new support staff member, Mr Mitchinson, will also be offering an alternative sports club on Tuesdays starting in the week beginning 16th September 2024. Details about these clubs will be made available via separate letters in due course.

Toast & Snack

Our 10p toast at break time will continue this year. The local Co-op very kindly sponsors this by paying 60% of the costs. Sadly, the grant used to pay for the additional fresh fruit for KS2 has ended which means that we can no longer provide this as well. Children from families who are in receipt of benefits-based free school meals can continue to receive toast for free, we ask everyone else to continue contributing their 10p if they would like a slice. Alternatively, children are welcome to bring their own healthy snacks for playtime. Please remember that we are a nut-free school.

Nursery

We can't wait to welcome our nursery children into school next week! Mrs Woodward and Mrs Dalglish have put a tremendous amount of work in to revamping the setting over the holidays and it is looking lovely. We really hope that the children enjoy playing and learning in it.

Our message to the children this week has been simple....

We hope that in doing this they will all fulfil their true potential, contribute positively to our community and continue to make BPS a great place to be.

Thanks for reading.

Kind Regards,



Mr Armstrong
Headteacher



Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing from 19th August 2024

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices issued by DfE, the following changes will come into force for School Penalty Notice Fines issued **after 19th August 2024**.

From 19 August 2024 there is 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 school 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 different terms or school years.

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.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence 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 unauthorised absence the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.



Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case could be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in Criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court may show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

Per Parent*, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are 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.

*Parent

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" as:

- All natural (biological) parents, whether they are married or not.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.