

Preston Grange Primary School

September 4th 2025



Welcome

It has been so lovely to have all of the children back in school this week! The children are already settled into their new classes with their teachers and have bounced back happily and are working hard. Welcome to our new children and families, we hope that you enjoy being part of our school!



Communication from school

For our new families to school, there are various ways that we share information from school:

- **Newsletter** - this week on paper, but in future a text will refer you to the newsletter which may be found on our school website www.pgps.co.uk
- **Text** - we send regular reminders and messages via our school messaging system. (Please can we ask that we always have your up to date mobile numbers)
- **X (Twitter)** - this is where we share up to date content across the week with photos and videos from the classroom and around school. Our new families may sign up for X (Twitter) and our school account is: [pg_primary](https://twitter.com/pg_primary).
- **Phone** - Miss Hogarth is our Office Manager may ring parents/carers, and vice versa. Our school number is 0191 3009190.



Flu immunisation

The nasal flu vaccination is now for Nursery children as well as the rest of school. Parents should have received a link by text to complete - either to authorise or opt out of the vaccination. The nurses are in school on Thursday 27th November (AM.)



Parents evening

This term, we will be holding parent appointments for Autumn term on Tuesday 21st October. The booking system will go live on Tuesday 14th October.

SEN meetings

Parents who meet with Mrs Gibson, SENCO or Miss Storey, Early Years SENCO will have the termly meeting with the relevant member of staff. These will be held in the second half of Autumn term.

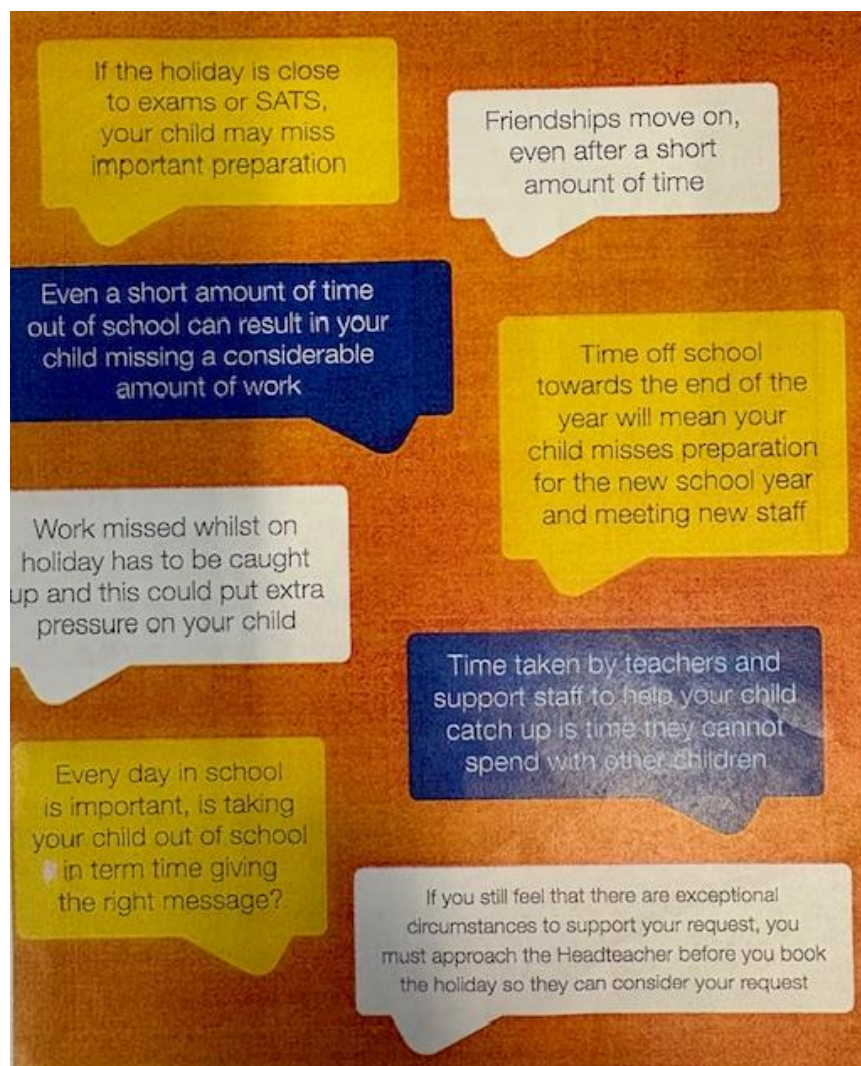


Attendance

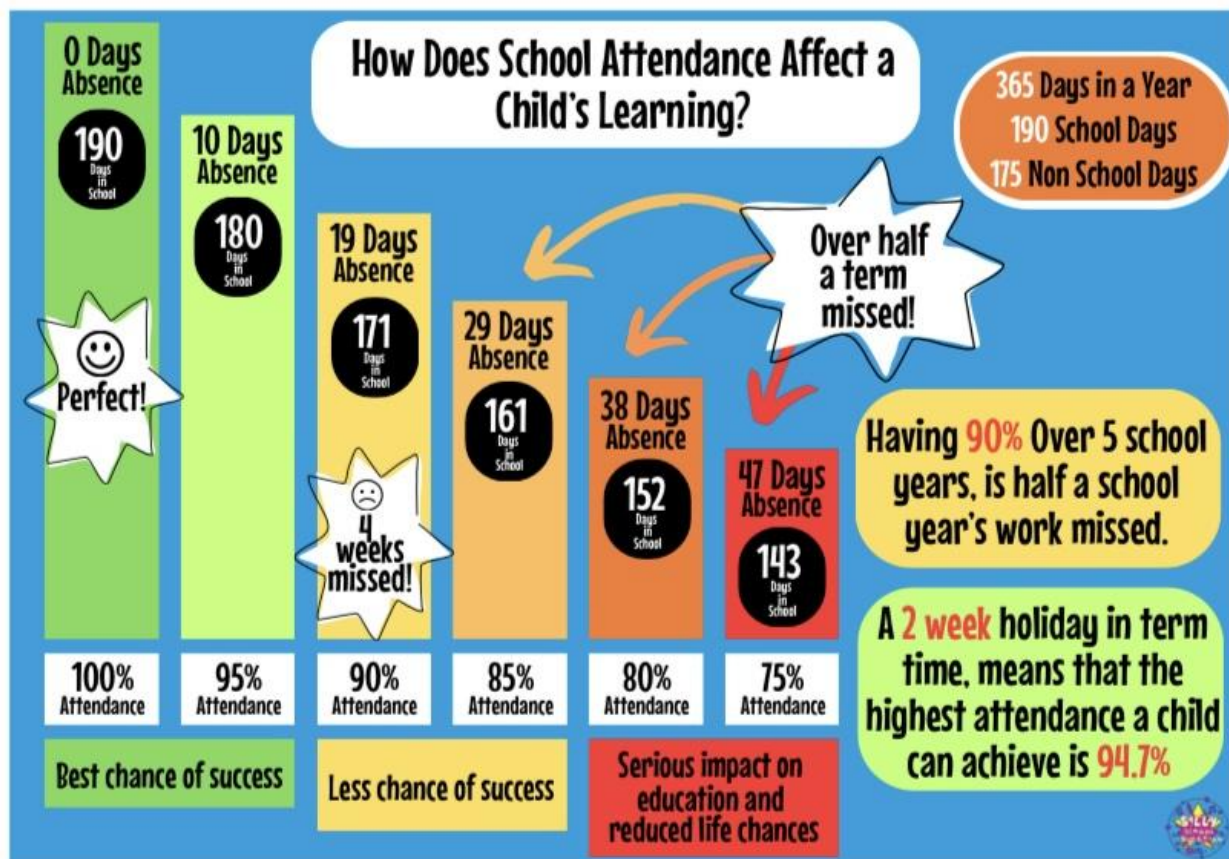
You may have seen on the news this week, the government's push to improve school attendance. Please see below some reminders about the importance of attendance:

- If you take a term time holiday, this will be unauthorised.

- If a child has 10 unauthorised absences from a term time holiday (5 missed days) this will result in a penalty notice fine.
- If you wish to take your child out of school for any reason, a leave of absence form must be submitted **beforehand**.
- If your child is ill, parents must make an absence call before 9am. We must also know the reason for your child being off school.
- If you are unsure whether to send your child into school, please refer to the Little Orange book: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Little-Orange-Book.pdf>
- School advises never taking a child out of school when they will miss the important times of the academic year: assessment time of year (May), Key Stage 2 SATS (May), and the start of the school year in September.
- Each term Mrs Spowart as Attendance Lead sends out letters to parents if a child is under school target attendance of 96.5%.
- If your child is under 90% attendance, they are classed by the DFE as a persistent absentee and this will result in a letter, an attendance meeting and referral to the Local Authority.
- Things to consider BEFORE submitting a holiday form - please see below.



Lastly, and most importantly, please see below the diagram which shows the significant impact of attendance on a child's learning:



Swimming

A reminder that Year 6 start weekly swimming lessons at Tynemouth Pool on Friday 12th September.

Teatowels

Our annual trip to the pantomime in November is coming up, we will be fundraising this term with the aim of subsidising the cost of the trip for families.

Firstly, the tea towels organised by the Friends of Preston Grange are still on sale at £7. Please see Miss Hogarth in the office if you would like to order one, thank you.



Halloween disco

On Friday 24th October (PM) we will be having 2 Halloween Discos. The discos for KS1 & 2 will be organised by a group of our new Year 6 children. More information to follow. (Please note: Nursery children have a range of exciting Halloween activities in the morning & may come in fancy dress for the day. NB. Children who

do not wish to participate will have alternative activities to do.

Chocolate tombola

On Friday 26th September will be a non-uniform day and we ask that the children come into school with some kind of item of chocolate for a chocolate tombola, as well as some money to have buy tickets at the tombola. A text will be sent out to remind families of this date nearer the time. Many thanks for your support.

Safeguarding - the use of smartphones

As part of our safeguarding duty, we unfortunately have had experience in dealing with issues arising from smart phone use by our children. We feel it necessary as part of our safeguarding duty to offer to families advice, and to share information that we feel is relevant and helpful for parents & carers.

Please find below two very useful websites with some excellent information about the dangers of children using smartphones.



<https://delaysmartphones.org.uk> - this shares some excellent information about the dangers of smart phone use, and encourage parents to delay the age at which children use a smartphone. They have some startling statistics on their front page regarding smartphones and their effect on children.



<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/sign-the-parent-pact> - Their mission is to bring people together to stand up for healthier, happier childhoods.

Their website states that Smartphone Free Childhood isn't about banning tech or turning back time – it's about giving children more of what really matters: time, connection, and freedom to be children. They help families delay smartphones and social media together – building community, sharing support, and changing the conversation. We would ask interested parents to look at the website and join the local WhatsApp community with other likeminded parents.

Preston Grange Has Talent

This year, our annual Preston Grange Has Talent will take place this half term. If there are any children keen to apply to take part, the form to complete is attached with this newsletter. Each class will hold auditions on Friday 3rd October in-class, and each class will decide their winning act to go forwards into the final which will be at 2.30pm on Thursday 23rd October. Families of the final 7 acts are invited to attend the final of the talent show.

Please can all children return their PGHT applications by Friday 12th September, thank you.

After school clubs

All of the after school clubs have got off to a start this week - w hope that the children are enjoying them. If your child would like to apply late for a club this half term, we have spaces in all of them. Please contact Miss Hogarth in the office if you wish to add onto any club.

A reminder that the booking system for clubs after half term is still open ,and will close on 24th October.



Pre-loved uniform

Our rail of lovely pre-loved or new uniform is all stocked up and ready for families to use. It is currently in our school hall and you can either pop in on a morning or at the end of the day to help yourself, or phone Miss Hogarth in the office to arrange a time to come in and look at the uniform. If anyone can think of a more convenient place to keep the uniform, or make it more accessible to all, please let me know, thank you.



Dates for your diary....so far

Mon 15/9 - Y6 visit to the Synagogue AM
Tues 23/9 Newcastle Eagles team in school - Hoops 4 Health Y5 & 6
Fri 26/9 Chocolate tombola - non-uniform day
Fri 3/10 PG Has Talent auditions in class PM
Tues 21/10 Parent appointments 1.30pm - 7.30pm
Thurs 23/10 PG Has Talent final 2.30pm
Fri 24/10 Halloween discos Rec-Y6 PM
Fri 24/10 **BREAK UP FOR OCTOBER HALF TERM**

NB. Children return to school on Monday 3rd November.

Tracey Taylor
Headteacher
Preston Grange Primary School



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