



FEATHERSTONE ACADEMY

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www.Featherstoneacademy.co.uk



SEPTEMBER 2017— AUTUMN TERM — NEWSLETTER 1



Welcome to Featherstone Academy

I would like to welcome everyone back into school, after what I hope has been an enjoyable break. A special welcome to parents of Nursery and Reception children. I hope you have all settled in at Featherstone Academy. I am looking forward to this new school year and am confident that your child will be engaged in some very enjoyable and exciting learning experiences during their time here.

Free School Meals

If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals, could we encourage you to register a claim by completing the online application form. By using the online system an immediate yes or no response can be obtained and any applications will then feed automatically through to the entitlement team. A confirmation letter will be sent out to yourself and the school. If you prefer a paper copy, please collect one from the school office.

From September, children in Reception, Class 1 and Class 2 will all receive free school lunches funded by the government. Even if your child/ren are in the above classes, if you meet the criteria, we still need you to make a claim for Free School Meals so that the school will be able to receive extra funding to support your child.

If you are registered for Free School Meals this can enable you to have extra support for your child.

To see if you are entitled to Free School Meals please check: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmealsapplication for an immediate yes or no response.

School Photographs

Tuesday 19th September

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 19th September 2017. Each child will have a single portrait, and all siblings will have a family shot. Class group shots will be taken later on in the term. If you have any pre-school children that you would like to be included in your family photograph, please be in the school hall by 8.30



USED UNIFORM



FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

We have a large quantity of good quality used school uniform for sale.

We will be selling all items for 20p each. To be held outside the School Library at 3.20pm.

Medication

If your child needs medication at school, it must be clearly labelled and a medical consent form must be completed at the school office.

All medicines are administered at 12 noon. Only medicines prescribed by a doctor can be administered by school staff.

All medicines are kept in the school office. Inhalers are kept in the classroom, but a medical form still needs to be completed.

Dinner Money

School meal prices are £2.10 per day, [£10.50 per week]. Dinners can be paid for in advance on a Monday morning. Cheques to be made payable to **Featherstone Academy**.

Please try to send the correct money in a named envelope indicating name, class and days meals required.

We have a supply of the appropriate envelopes in the school office at a cost of 50 envelopes for £1. These envelopes could also be used for milk money.

Thank you

Note for Parents on Social Networking Sites

As we all know, social networking sites such as 'Facebook' are widely used and enjoyed by the majority of parents and older children. However, sometimes these sites are used to publicly discuss matters which may include personal disagreements between pupils at the school or for parents to vent frustration about school matters.

You may not be aware that comments made on social networking sites about an individual can be considered to be 'defamatory' and lead to the onset of legal action being taken against those who made them, therefore I feel it is important to remind users of social networking sites to bear this in mind before posting comments.

Social networking sites are not as 'private' as we might like to think and careless or inconsiderate use of these sites can cause unnecessary distress to the individuals concerned, or have an adverse impact on the school in general, or both and this is something the school seek to avoid.

The school works hard to create a safe and happy environment for its staff and pupils and should any parent have concerns about either their child, or the school in general, I would urge them to contact the school.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Water Bottles

Every classroom has access to drinking water. Please make sure your child has a named 'sports top' water bottle in school. Water bottles can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £1.50 and replacement tops at 50p. Thank you

Holidays/Absences

May we remind you that no holidays can be authorised during term time in Staffordshire schools. If you chose to take your child out of school for holidays, please collect an holiday request form from the school office.

If your child is absent from school for any reason please inform the school office by 10a.m.

Thank you

Contact/Consent Forms

We sent home data consent forms with each child in KS1 and KS2 before the school holidays. If you haven't already done so we would be grateful if you could deal with this immediately and return completed forms to school as soon as possible.

It is vital that we have up-to-date emergency contact numbers for each child. Please remember to keep the office informed of

Child Protection

Parents should be aware that school has a legal requirement to refer concerns they have about the safety of children in their care to social Services

Thank you

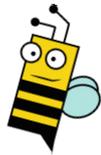
If anyone has any queries or questions please don't hesitate to call into the school office, where a member of staff will be happy to help during office hours 8:30a.m to 4:30p.m.



@feathacad



Featherstone Academy



DIARY DATES

School Diary Dates for 2017/2018



Autumn Term 2017

5th September	School opens
23rd -27th Oct	Half Term
	Meet the teacher (more details to follow)
19th Dec	School Closes

Spring Term 2018

3rd Jan	Inset day
4th Jan	School opens to pupils
19th—23rd Feb	Half Term
30th March -13th April	Easter holidays
16th April	School opens to pupils
7th May	May day (school closed)
28th May- 1st June	Half Term
4th June	INSET DAY
20st July	School Closes

Further details of forthcoming events will be sent home nearer the time. Dates and events are subject to change.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Times 7:45am -8:40am

Following Health & Safety guidelines the following rules must be adhered to:

- * Everyone should sign on the register provided.
- * Children in Nursery Reception, Class 1 and 2 should be supervised by a parent at all times.
- * Children in Key Stage 2 (Classes 3,4,5 and 6) are welcome as long as they purchase breakfast and or a drink.
- * No one should leave the school hall during Breakfast Club times.
- * When the bell goes at 8.40, KS2 children should go onto the playground & FS and KS1 children should go direct to their classrooms and parents should leave the school via the small gate on the playground.

* Children or parents are not allowed to walk around the school (if a parent has a query please report to the school office via the main entrance).

Thank You

Remember, this is a Breakfast Club so please use the tables and chairs provided and enjoy your breakfast.

Lost Property

To help keep down the volume of lost property, please can you ensure that all of your child's belongings are clearly named. Thank you

MORNING BREAK MENU

KEY STAGE 2

Cereal	25p
Toast	20P
Muffin	1/2 for 25P
Teacake	1/2 for 25P
Crumpet	25P

BREAKFAST CLUB MENU

Cereal	25p	
Toast	20P	
Muffin	1/2 for	25P
Teacake	1/2 for	25P
Crumpet	25P	
Fruit	35p	
Milk	20p	
Juice	35p	
Hot Chocolate	40p	
Milk shake	40p	
Tea and Coffee	25p	

Wednesday Only

Bacon/Sausage Sandwich
£1.30 Or 65p for 1/2



@feathacad



Featherstone Academy

September 2017

Dear Parents

Leave of Absence during Term Time

As you will be aware there has been some ambiguity over the regulations for Leave of Absence during term time, in light of the recent Isle of Wight case.

We strive to achieve high levels of attendance for our pupils, with as few missed educational opportunities as possible, in order to maximise your child's educational opportunities. Consequently we hope your child can achieve 95% or more school attendance over the academic year.

Regarding holiday requests during term time, or other requests for leave of absence, it remains the case that Head teachers may only authorise such absences if there are '**exceptional circumstances**'.

PENALTY NOTICE INFORMATION

Please see the following statement from Staffordshire County Council regarding Penalty Notices...

Attendance at school is extremely important and being regularly absent will affect your child's ability to learn and do well.

You may be aware of a recent court case which focused national attention on the fining of parents for taking their children on holidays in school term time.

As a result of this, the county council are reviewing the rules around unauthorised absence and issuing penalty notices to parents.

Whilst the review is ongoing, head teachers will continue to review all requests for leave in term time and report all unauthorised absences to the county council.

As a temporary measure when a child has more than 10 days or more unauthorised absence over two half terms in a row, then a penalty notice may be issued to the parents/carers of that child.

If you have any questions with regards to this, please contact your Local Support Team. Contact details can be found online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/LST

July 2016

Staffordshire County Council.

WHAT IS A PENALTY NOTICE?

A fine of £60 per parent / carer (per child) if paid within 21 days from the date of issue. If this Penalty is not paid, the amount rises to £120. If after 28 days of the date of issue the £120 is not paid the Local Authority will prosecute you under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996. This will lead to a hearing in the Magistrates Court and may result in a fine of up to £1000.

We request that any applications for leave of absence (holiday) are required to be put in writing to the Head teacher, at least 2 weeks in advance.

Kind regards

Head teacher.

Featherstone Academy

School Term and Holiday Date 2017/2018

Autumn Term 2017:

INSET: Monday 4th September

SCHOOL OPEN: Tuesday 5th September 2017

Half Term: Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October 2017

SCHOOL CLOSES: Friday 19th December 2017

Spring Term 2018:

INSET: Wednesday 3rd January 2018

SCHOOL OPEN: Thursday 4th January 2018

Half Term: Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February 2018

SCHOOL CLOSES: Thursday 29th March 2018

Easter Holiday: Monday 2nd April - Wednesday 11th April 2018

INSET: Thursday 12th April 2018

INSET: Friday 13th April 2018

Summer Term 2018:

SCHOOL OPEN: Monday 16th April 2018

May Day: Monday 7th May 2018

Half Term: Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June 2018

INSET Monday 4th June 2018

SCHOOL OPEN Tuesday 5th June

SCHOOL CLOSES Friday 20th July

September 2017



Dear Parents / Carers,

Regarding Leave of Absence during Term Time.

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Kind regards,

Mrs Caroline Jobling,

Headteacher.