



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 new Nursery and Reception children. Everyone has settled well in their new classes and there has been a lovely atmosphere around school this week. I am looking forward to this new school year and I'm confident that your child will be engaged in enjoyable and exciting learning experiences during their time here. We are celebrating the school's 90th birthday this year and we look forward to making more memories in the years to come. At the end of term, we wished a fond farewell to Mrs Round who had been at Featherstone Academy for 20 years, Mr Watkins who is continuing his teacher training at Cheslyn Hay Primary and Mrs Rogers who has been seconded to Edgar Stammers. I would also like to welcome new members of staff, Miss Tkaczuk in Year 4, Mrs Hurcombe in Year 2 and Mr Frisken in KS2.

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.

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

Friday 13th September

The photographer will be in school on Friday 13th September 2018. Each child will have a single portrait, each class will have a group shot and all siblings will have a family shot. 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

Thank you.



Meet the Teacher

On Wednesday 19th September there is an opportunity for parents to visit their child's classroom and meet their new teacher. All teachers will be in their own classroom between 4:00pm and 6:00pm for informal discussions and information sharing. There will also be an opportunity for you to speak to the teacher and ask any questions. This is an important meeting because the teacher will set out standards, routines and timetables for the year ahead and I hope that all parents will be able to attend.

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—Price Increase

Regrettably, we have to increase the cost of school meals by 10p. As from 1st October 2018, school dinners will increase from £2.10 to £2.20, (£11.00 per week).

Dinners can be paid for in advance on a Monday morning. Cheques to be made payable to Featherstone Academy.

Reception, Year 1 & 2 do not have to pay for their dinners. From Year 3 onwards, dinners have to be paid for.

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.

Reading Café



Reading Café will be starting on Thursday 13th September. Reading café will take place from 2.30pm to 3.00pm every Thursday. It is an opportunity for grandparents, parents or carers to come into school to read with their child or grandchild in our school library.

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

KS2 Snack

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 are able to purchase snack from school during morning break. There are a range of snacks and drinks available. (See reverse)

Contact/Consent Forms

We will be sending out new consent forms and 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 any changes. Thank you

Are your contact details and email address up to date?

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.





DIARY DATES
School Diary



Autumn Term 2018

- 14th Sept. School photographs
- 19th Sept Meet the teacher (4-6pm)

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.

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	

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
Fruit	35p

Wednesday Only

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



@feathacad



Featherstone Academy

September 2016

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 Headteachers 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.