

FLIXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

19th January 2024

Dear Parents

A happy New Year to all of you, as we look forward to the Spring and Summer terms of 2024, although the current weather does make the summer term seem a long way away! In the spirit of trying to hurry things along, this is a relatively short and snappy newsletter.

DIARY DATES

You will be notified separately of class and year group visits and visitors. School dates for your diary so far:

Open Classroom	Tuesday 30 th January 3:15 – 3:45 Infant Department 3:30 – 4:00 Junior Department
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Class Photos	Friday 1 st March
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World Book Day	Thursday 7 th March
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Parents' Evening	Thursday 14 th March
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World Book Day 2024 will be a dressing up day for children, in a book related costume, as we celebrate all things reading. I'd just like to remind parents that we go 'full on World Book Day' once every two years (the even years) so we can save up the fun of finding something to wear!

ATTENDANCE

We are extremely proud of our children's attendance across Flixton Primary. We currently have attendance well above the national average, and within the top 10 across the whole of Trafford. Every school day is important, but we understand that sometimes children can be poorly, and that our experience of the Covid pandemic may have changed how we view the threshold for sending our children into school when ill.

Our guidance is clear – if your child is well enough, they should be in school. Coughs, sniffles and colds are part of our lovely British winters, and should not prevent most children who have them from being in school, just as they would have been before the joys of Covid. Obviously, if your child is too poorly to come into school, he or she should stay at home until well enough to come back in.

Experts have shown that one of the biggest negative impacts on children's academic outcomes because of their attendance is around the idea of 'broken weeks'. A broken week is any week where a child has not been in school for all five days of the week – perhaps he or she had a Tuesday off. That week is broken, and the impact of repeated broken weeks over time is actually far

greater than it would seem because our learning is planned sequentially and it moves on. Five broken weeks, with five days absent, has a far greater negative impact on a child's learning than five days in a row absent, because a far larger number of learning sequences have been repeatedly interrupted. This creates issues around continuity, around opportunities to practise and rehearse learning, and around securing learning before the next step can be taken.

Please help us to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child by maintaining really high levels of attendance and avoiding any unnecessary days off that would break weeks.

TERM DATES 2024/25

Governors have approved our term dates for the next academic year. They can be found on the school website under the Information For Parents – School Holiday Dates tab.

I told you it would be brief! I look forward to seeing you all at our Open Classroom event in a couple of weeks.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Redmond', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Redmond
Headteacher