

Happy New Year!

Welcome back everyone! It has been lovely to open our gates again, and have everyone back for a new academic year!

We hope you have all had a lovely summer, and although we will still enjoy the sunshine, while it lasts, we look forward to an exciting autumn term, and the year ahead.

An additional welcome goes to our new starters in Nursery, Reception and those who have joined us from other schools in various year groups. Thank you all for choosing Fens Primary School, and welcome to the Fens Family.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome to new staff members. Mrs Murphy and Miss Worth have joined the team this September and are supporting Y4 and Y3 respectively, as well as the wider school.

Summer Half-Term Holiday 2024

We would, again, like to remind you of our arrangements for the summer half-term holiday of 2024. We have, as we did during previous years, organised all five of our PD days into one week. This is for the first week of June 2024, which is the first week of the last half-term of next academic year. This week follows on from the official half-term holiday (Whit Week).

This means that instead of school being closed for just one week, it will be closed for two weeks. As a result, school will close at home time on Friday 24th

May 2024 and will re-open on Monday 10th June 2024.

If you have considered family holidays, this provides a great opportunity totaling 16 days. The link below will take you to our 2023-24 term dates.

[https://www.fensprimaryschool.co.uk/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Approved%20-%20Hartlepool%20School%20Term%20dates%20%202023-2024%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.fensprimaryschool.co.uk/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Approved%20-%20Hartlepool%20School%20Term%20dates%20%202023-2024%20(1).pdf)

School Dinners

The daily cost for dinners is £12.65 a week, which is paid via SchoolMoney.

Diary Dates

Friday 27th October – School closes for October half term holiday.

Monday 6th November – School reopens for second autumn half term.



Newsletter

Friday, 8th September

Merit Winners

Congratulations to our well-deserved winners who have had a brilliant first in school. They have excelled in a variety of areas (including: an amazing confident start to the year, a fantastic attitude to reading, a positive attitude, class contributions, being respectful at all times), and have had 100% attendance all week. We look forward to starting working through our Commando Joe's 'RESPECT' character values next week, which will begin with 'Resilience'.



Lost Property

As we start the new year, we already have a large amount of lost property (mainly from the end of last academic year). Items which have been named, or labelled are in the process of finding their owners. As always, we please ask that clothes are clearly labelled with your child's name, or at least initials.

Attendance

Attendance is always very important in school and it was very pleasing to see improvements throughout last academic year.

We have started this academic year positively and would love to see this continue. We do understand that children can be ill from time to time and this may require time away from school. We would encourage parents to check the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> if their child is unwell. This website lists childhood illnesses and will advise whether a child needs to be absent from school and the recommended duration of absence.

As with last academic year, we will continue with our 'In To Win' initiative and half termly rewards will be in place for every child who has 100% attendance for that half term. The 100% will reset again at the beginning of each half term. This means that every child has 6 opportunities to win prizes throughout the year. Every child who has received 98% attendance or above throughout the full school year will also receive a reward.

We also request that holidays are not taken during term time (please see information opposite). If holidays during term time are unavoidable, please make an appointment with Mr Connor to complete a holiday form. Please note that if your child's attendance should drop below 90% in the 39 school weeks prior to an unauthorised holiday, the Local Authority attendance team will be notified and a penalty notice could be issued.

When children are absent from school due to a medical appointment, evidence of the appointment must be shown to school. If evidence is not shown, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.