



Ellenbrook

COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Longwall Avenue, Ellenbrook, Worsley, Salford M28 7PS
Tel: 0161 799 6347 Email: ellenbrook.primaryschool@salford.gov.uk
Head Teacher: Mr. R Blackburn B.Ed PQSI

Spring Term Update Letter

Tuesday 14th January 2019

Dear Parents\Carers

I hope you all had a great break and are back into the swing of post-Christmas life! As I said in the newsletter last week, I just wanted to write and update you on a few things.

New Timetable

As you will have read last week, we now have a new timetable within school. This not only allows us to have 4 quality teaching hours in the day, but also enables every class in the school to have group reading in the same session every day across the school.

It's been up and running for a week and so far, so good with very few teething troubles. Beginning and end of day times haven't changed but both play and lunch times have moved and the changes only affect Year 1-6.

9.00am – Registration & Assembly
9.30am – Teaching Session 1
10.30am – Break
10.45am – Teaching Session 2
11.45am – Guided Reading
12.15pm – Lunch
1.15pm – Teaching Session 3
2.15pm – Teaching Session 4
3.15pm – Homework\End of day arrangements
3.30pm - Home time

Leave of Absence in Exceptional Circumstances

As a school we are required to remind you at the beginning of each term about the school's policy on pupil absence.

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, which became law on 1st September 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted. As Headteacher, I can authorise requests for leave of absence if they are deemed exceptional and this is a duty delegated to me by the Governing body as it is in all schools.

In accordance with the above Regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of Salford City Council, to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority.

The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28-day period the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under section 444 Education Act 1996.



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If you have any queries, please see myself, Mr Marks or the office.

Parent Pay

We always listen very carefully to feedback and just before Christmas a couple of parents commented on the number of parent pay messages we were sending out. The office ladies and I chatted this through and we have decided that we will hold Parent Pay communications until 3pm unless they are time sensitive. So all messages we want to send will go out at 3pm unless they require your immediate attention. This means if you receive a message during the day you will know it's important and needs to be read and if not, you will only need to check once at 3pm to see what has been sent out.

This is only until WEDUC (see next section) is up and running, then communication will be much easier!

WEDUC

As I mentioned in the newsletter before Christmas, we have purchased a new parent communication app called WEDUC. This is with the specific intention of streamlining our communication with you as parents and to make our life a little easier as we will be less reliant on ParentPay. We will still use ParentPay for payments, but all messaging, etc will come from WEDUC when it is launched.

We will be sending a letter home on Friday 24th January 2020 with the information you will need to register for the app. Please can we ask you to do it as soon as you are able, so you are ready for its launch on Monday 27th January 2020. We will still use ParentPay for messaging until parents have moved over but after that all communication will be via WEDUC.

PTA

Just a reminder that the school is very fortunate to have a very proactive and enthusiastic PTA who devote a lot of time to organising events that raise money for the school. The PTA is always looking for new members and new helpers so if you can spend some time attending a meeting or helping with an event, please contact them via PTA Social or the school

info@ellenbrookpta.co.uk [facebook.com/ellenbrookpta](https://www.facebook.com/ellenbrookpta) <https://app.ptasocial.com/register/ellenbrookpta>

Bush Fires

Like me I am sure you have been touched by the news coverage on the Australian bush fires. Our children have a real sense of responsibility and the School Council have suggested a non-uniform day to raise money to support the rescue effort.

We are asking you all to support the non-uniform day which will be held on Friday 24th January 2020. We are asking the children to wear a colour that represents Australia on the day for a small donation. It would be great to raise some money to help the fighting of the fires and recovery afterwards.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Roger Blackburn
Head Teacher



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