

Friars Primary School & Nursery

Principal: Mr C McClay
Vice Principal: Mrs S Halls



Wednesday 17th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another year comes to a close and what a year it has been! 2023-24 has been fantastic and it is with much happiness that we look back over the past eleven months. There have been many positive things to celebrate and of course a huge thank you to the children, staff, parents and carers, family members and all of our other stakeholders for making it so special. It has been especially lovely to finish with such a flourish of activity... Sports Days and Picnics, the Summer Fayre, Careers Week etc, etc, etc!

If you have been with us over the past two years, you might remember that a school focus of ours has been children's writing. Nationally and indeed in our school, there was a drop-off in writing attainment following the COVID-19 pandemic. In our last two end of year letters, we have spoken about writing and I am pleased to say that once again our end of key stage 2 writing results improved again in 2023-24. For the past two years, our writing results have been above the national average and we increased the margin this year. Last year, we shared that another school focus would be times tables. Pleasingly, our Year 4 Multiplication Screening Check results were markedly better this June with more children scoring maximum marks and a large increase in our average scores. A big well done to all of our children across the school for their excellent achievement.

Last September, we held year group Curriculum Evenings and these will take place again in the autumn and will be bigger and better. Please see the dates below and please attend if you can. More information will follow when we return from the summer.

Tuesday 17th September: 5pm Year 1 / 5:30pm Year 2
Wednesday 18th September: 5pm Year 3 / 5:30pm Year 5
Thursday 19th September: 5pm Year 4 / 5:30pm Year 6

Attendance

School pupil attendance continues to be below the 96% we achieved before the COVID-19 pandemic. As a guide, our whole school attendance for this academic year is 93.3% which is the same as last year. It is vitally important that, unless children are unwell, they are in school. OFSTED look at school attendance and poor attendance can stop a school from achieving the top gradings. We are very hopeful that attendance improves; there is a proven strong correlation between attendance and learning success.

Children Moving from Year 2 to Year 3

If your child is moving up to Year 3, just a reminder that children are no longer entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals in September. If you think your child is eligible for free school meals, please ensure that you have completed the form on the council website: <https://www.southend.gov.uk/help-costs/free-school-meals-1>. If your child is not eligible for free school meals, school meals must be paid for in advance and booked through ParentPay.



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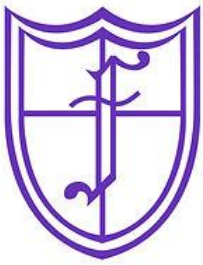
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It goes without saying that we really hope that everyone has a fantastic summer break. If your child is in Year 6 and you have no other children at Friars, we wish you all the best and thank you for having been part of our Friars family. For everyone else, we will see you when school returns for Years 1 to 6 on Wednesday 4th September. Both Breakfast Club and Extended Schools will begin from this first day.

Thank you for your continued support. Here's to a great final two days! Don't forget that we have school until Friday!

Yours sincerely,

Mr. C. McClay

Mrs. S. Halls

Principal

Vice Principal



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