



Aintree Davenhill Primary School Newsletter

Friday
6th
September
2024

Welcome Back!

It is lovely to have all of the children back in school this week. We were so pleased to see how well they came into school - even our youngest children settled so well. There were even quite a few smiles to be seen as the children were coming in too which is something we always love to see! I have really enjoyed our assemblies this week and have been so impressed with the children - I missed hearing the children sing!

The children have quickly focused on their work and our teachers and T.As have been really impressed with the children's enthusiasm for their learning. Miss Siveyer and I have had the pleasure of seeing lots of fantastic work from KS2 children this week!

The children have really enjoyed their playtimes and we have some sport coaches working with some of the children at lunchtimes. We would like to say a huge thank you to the FODS who have helped us to buy some play resources for EYFS and KS1 children to use on the playground.

We have spent time this week reminding the children of important routines for learning and the expectations for their behaviour at Aintree Davenhill.

This year, we will be working really hard with the children to help them improve their spelling accuracy which we know will also help them improve the quality of their writing. Teachers are looking forward to introducing new art, D.T, music and P.E lessons with the children which we are sure that they will enjoy!

We also welcomed some new staff to school this week: Mrs Cockbain (RG), Miss Johnstone (3H), Mrs Whitehead (4S) and Miss Farrell (Year 3 and Year 4).



Dates for the diary...

September

Monday 9th
4S Swimming

Wednesday 11th 5pm
FODS meeting

Friday 13th
KS2 Choir Club Starts

16th –25th
Y5 Bikeability

Thursday 19th
Spanish Club Starts

October

**Monday 28th -
Friday 1st**
Half Term

Asda Rewards App

Asda have made changes to their Rewards app which means that moving forward when a shopper uses their app, the retailer will donate 0.5% of their total basket spend to a primary school of their choice.

Customers can select their primary school of choice within the app and make sure they scan every time they shop. Asda will launch each school's 'cashpot' with £50 once they register for the initiative and will add an additional £1 to the school pot for every customer who signs up, and the supermarket anticipates around £500 will be raised for each school taking part.

It would be fantastic if all our parents who shop at Asda sign up for this as these funds would be such a great help to school!



Important Reminders

PE

Children should have a pair of trainers to wear when playing games outdoors **and** a pair of pumps for indoor use.

Long Hair

Long hair should be tied back for school. For safety reasons in P.E lessons, it is essential that long hair is tied back.

Make-up and Nail Varnish

Children should not wear any make-up for school and will be given a facial wipe to remove it if they do. Nail varnish shouldn't be worn for school and children are not allowed to come to school wearing acrylic or artificial nails.

Earrings

Children should wear small stud earrings. Again for safety reasons, we ask that earrings are not worn on days that the children have P.E lessons (this includes swimming sessions). If children forget, they will be asked to remove the earrings. If they are unable to remove the earrings independently, then unfortunately they will not be able to take part in the P.E lesson.

School Shoes

School shoes should be black sensible shoes or black trainers.

House Team Competition

This week, the winning team was **ROSE!** Well done!



1. **ROSE** (649 points)
2. **ABBEY** (646 points)
3. **MILL** (585 points)
4. **VALLEY** (554 points)



Team Around the School

Denise Higgins, a qualified social worker, who is working as an Early Help Worker, will be in school every Wednesday. If any parents would like to drop in and ask for any help or support, Denise would be more than happy to speak to you.

Home Reading

We would ask for your help with your child's reading. It is so important that all of our children continue to practise to read regularly. Whilst adults in school make every effort to hear the children read, we are not able to do this as often as we would like and so we would ask that you hear your child read at home at least three times a week.

Why read with your child at home?



- Children who read regularly to someone at home learn to read quicker than children who only read at school
- Many researchers think that young children need to read 600-1000 words a week to become fluent readers. That's a lot of practice!
- Hearing your child read for ten minutes, 3 or 4 times a week will help make your child a good reader
- Good readers tend to enjoy school more are usually confident and positive with others at home and at school



Attendance Matters

Our attendance last school year was well below our school attendance target of 96.5%. Whilst we know that illnesses impacted our attendance last year, we were really concerned by the number of holiday requests we received and the number of absences that were referred to the Sefton Attendance Support Service for fining.

We are expected to follow Sefton's procedures for issuing penalty notices for holidays. As a school, we do not benefit in any way from holiday fines; the impact on school is the extra work it creates for members of staff processing referrals to the Attendance Support Service.

Please be aware that Sefton expect parents to make an absence request from the headteacher, at least 20 days prior to the holiday being taken.

If your child is absent from school, it is important that you keep in touch with us on a daily basis via a phone call to the school office. A reason for absence should always be provided when your child does not attend school.

Being ill should not be a reason given when your child is absent for a holiday. It puts the children under pressure when they return to school after having been away and it's unfair to other parents who inform school about a holiday and receive a fine.

We make regular contact with the parents of children who are absent, and if we are unable to make contact with a parent then we may make a home visit or ask our Team Around the School worker or our Attendance Officer to visit on our behalf. If we believe that children are absent due to a holiday, we will refer it to the Sefton Attendance Support Service. It is up to parents to provide the evidence that a holiday wasn't taken at this time.

Please do not book holidays during term time – we really need your support with this.

Attendance Matters



If you are unsure whether your child should attend school when they may be ill in some way, the information found from the link below may be of help to you.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Punctuality is also extremely important. Did you know that Reception and KS1 children have their phonics lessons at 9:15am every day? These sessions are crucial in developing early reading. Our KS2 children can be involved in small group support at this time too.

There is a clear link between attendance and a child's achievement - the more time a child is present in school, the more likely the child will fulfil their potential.

A school has to take a register of all pupils first thing in the morning and at the start of the afternoon. The register will remain open for around 30 minutes.

If a pupil arrives late to school whilst the register is still open they are marked as late (L on the attendance register). If a pupil arrives at school after the register is closed, this is classed as an unauthorised absence (U on the attendance register) unless there is a valid reason such as attending a medical appointment.

Being punctual for school means making sure your child is at school and ready to learn at the start of the school day. There are many ways to ensure your child is on time for school, from making sure their school bags are packed the night before to making sure they get up with plenty of time to eat and get ready. Lost minutes mean lost learning. Did you know that being late 15 minutes every day is the same as missing around 2 whole weeks of school over a full academic year? A few minutes here and there does matter - all that lost time adds up.

Being late doesn't only affect your child, it disrupts other children in the class as well as the teachers trying to teach a lesson. It also means that office staff have to take a lot of children to class who have arrived late for school.

However, if you do think you are going to be late, please do not keep your child off school for the rest of the day. Being late and in school is better than being absent.

Sefton Social Care Advice Line for SEND

In recognition that families of children and young people with complex needs and special educational needs often need a bit more support, Sefton has launched a Social Care Advice Line for SEND.

This advice line is staffed by two experienced social workers with a good knowledge of the Local Offer in Sefton. Parents are invited to use this phone number to find out more about what a Social Care assessment for a child entails to help families make an informed decision before approaching Social Care, and to talk about what other help might be available. Voicemails will be responded to within 7 days at which point the social worker will return the call for a discussion.

The telephone number for our Social Care Advice Line for SEND is **0151 934 2196**.

The social workers will not create a referral or record any family details when families ring for advice using this phone number.

Snack and Packed Lunch Reminders

As part of our ongoing commitment to being a 'healthy school', we would just like to remind you that at break times, the following snacks are permitted:

- Fruit
- Veg
- Cereal bars
- Crackers, rice cakes etc.
- Yoghurt (e.g. frubes etc.)



We ask that you avoid giving your child crisps, pastries, chocolate covered items, etc. during break times.

Packed lunches should also not contain any sweets, chocolate bars or fizzy drinks, etc. Such snacks can have a detrimental effect on children's focus throughout the day. We suggest a biscuit/small cake as a treat in packed lunches.

As part of our weekly PSHE lessons, we work hard on teaching the children about good nutrition and a healthy, balanced diet. We ensure the children are aware that such treats are fine on occasion, however, staff have become increasingly concerned by the amount of less healthy snacks that are being consumed on a daily basis on the playground and in the lunchroom.

We appreciate your ongoing support. If you have any queries or concerns, please speak directly with your class teacher.

FODS Friends of Davenhill

The FODS are looking for volunteers to support our events at school. Do you have what it takes to part of our team and make a real difference?

If you are able to provide any support please contact the school office or FODS committee. We will need to apply for a DBS for all volunteers and and this can take a number of weeks. Please indicate your interest in volunteering as soon as possible.

The FODS pay towards school trips and workshops. They also help towards the cost of IPADS and Laptops.

The FODS buy pizzas and hoodies for Year 6 leavers.

For more information please email: FODVICECHAIR.AINTREEDAVENHILL@SCHOOLS.SEFTON.GOV.UK

Home-School Partnership

We know how important it is to work closely with you as parents as we know how much of a difference it can make to the children's educational outcomes.

We value you sharing any information about your child that will help us to support them in school - we want them to feel happy and safe. We are also happy to discuss any concerns that you have about any of our procedures or our approach.

We would ask that you do come and speak to us in these instances as a face to face conversation or a phone call provides the opportunity for us to ask questions in order to find out further information that might be needed. ClassDojo messages are great for sending quick messages but not for matters that need far more information.

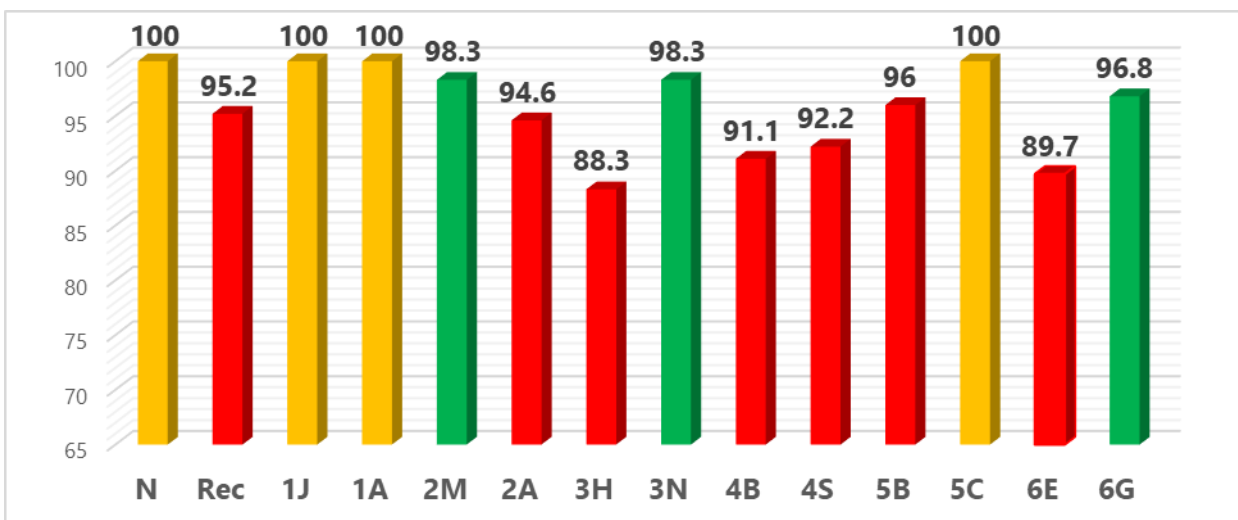
We understand that you will be concerned if your child comes home from school upset - this is something we would not want to happen, and we will make every effort to investigate your concerns and try to resolve them as quickly as possible.

We ask that you speak respectfully to the member of staff at school who is trying to help you without shouting at them.

Let's work together for the good of our children!

Aintree Davenhill Primary School Attendance

Average school attendance for 3 Sep 2024 — 6 Sep 2024 was 95.7%. Our school target is 96.5%



Well done to Nursery, 1J, 1A and 5C - keep up this fantastic attendance!