



DIARY DATES

Dates for the School Year 2014-2015 can be found on the school website.

[CLICK HERE](#) or on any of the links below to go to the calendar.

Please check regularly for new dates. You will receive further information about forthcoming events nearer the time, as appropriate.

Thursday 22 January
11+ Information Evening for parents of children in Year 5

Friday 23 January
Music for Schools Presentation for Parents 3.20pm



Tuesday 27 January
Curriculum Workshop Evening for parents 3.30pm-5.15pm

Saturday 7 February
Rotary Swimathon



Thursday 12 February
Large Schools' Swimming Gala 9am-noon, Meres Leisure Centre

Friday 13 February
Last day of term.

Monday 23 February
School re-opens

Dear Parents/Carers

What a very busy week it has been. There have been lots of exciting events happening in our school, some of which are summarised below.

Mr L Batey
Headteacher



Events in School

Sportshall Indoor Athletics Competition



The Year 5 and 6 Athletic Team competed at the Meres Leisure Centre, on Thursday 15th January, in the Sportshall Indoor Athletics Competition, for large Primary Schools. The races consisted of track and field and the children took part in up to 4 different events. Such as standing long jump, vertical jump, triple jump, soft javelin and chest push and on the track obsta-

cle relay, over and under relay and various length relays. We are all extremely proud of the determination, team spirit and effort from all of the 20 children involved. Our team came 6th overall which was a fantastic achievement. Well done to you everyone!



**Instrumental Tuition Opportunities—
Presentation to Parents**

You are invited to join us for a presentation to parents/carers on Friday 23 January at 3.20pm. Please reserve a place/places via Parentmail2.

11+ Information Evening

There will be an information evening for parents of children in Year 5, who are considering entering their children for the 11+ examination on Thursday 22 January at 5.00pm. Please reserve a place/places via Parentmail2 if you would like to attend.

Curriculum Workshops for Parents/Carers

Don't forget to book your places for our Curriculum Workshop Evening for parents on Tuesday 27 January 3.30pm-5.30pm. The workshops are available to all of our parents and will cover topics such as: on-line safety at home; how to support and develop further reading skills for children as well as other topics.

Hot School Meals—Allergen advice

Allergen advice for all menu items supplied as part of our hot school meals can be found [here](#). This information is provided by Ideal (formerly Food4Thought). If you have any queries, please contact them directly. You will have been asked to provide details of any known food allergies when your child started school here—please let us know if there is any change to this information.

Attendance

As you will know, we aim for all children to have as high a level of attendance as possible, as this is in their best interests, and allows them to take full advantage of the many opportunities they are offered. We maintain a very high average level of attendance (around 97%) - thank you for supporting us.

Last week, some of you will have received letters alerting you that your child's absence last term fell below the average for this school. In many cases, we know that this higher level of absence was due to circumstances which could not be avoided, or which are unlikely to happen again. However, we are obliged to draw parents/carers attention to their child's level of absence, as there are sometimes circumstances where this can be improved. Letters will continue to be sent at the beginning of each term—if you receive one, please consider if there are any ways in which you can improve your child's attendance. If we can support you in this, please contact the school office to make an appointment to discuss this. Where attendance levels become a serious cause for concern, we may involve other agencies, to help us to support parents/carers.

Please remember that if your child arrives late after the registers have closed, this must be recorded as an unauthorised absence, and this contributes to a child's overall absence level.

Requests for Term Time Absence

As you know, we can only authorise absence from school for exceptional reasons. We have tried very hard to support parents wherever possible, and will continue to do so, within what is permitted by the current regulations. However, we are still receiving requests for holiday absence during term time, despite having informed parents that this cannot be authorised. Please do not book a holiday during the school term. If you believe that you have exceptional reasons (i.e. a 'lifetime experience') for a holiday request, please submit your request before you make a booking. The definition of 'exceptional circumstances' does not include parental difficulties in getting time off during the school holidays—we are advised that this is a matter between the parent and their employer.

You will also be aware that parents/carers can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice if their child is out of school without authorisation. We have not, as yet, requested the issue of these notices from this school (although other bodies may request them if they are aware that a child is absent without authorisation). However, as it has now been well over a year since the new regulations came into effect, and all parents have been clearly informed, we have no option but to request a Fixed Penalty Notice to be issued where the criteria are met. The penalty is currently £60, if paid within 21 days.

Uniform

The majority of our children look very smart in our school uniform—thank you. Please remember that summer dresses and shorts should only be worn in the summer term. Please also ensure that your child's footwear is suitable for school—this information is available to parents on our website: **'Flat/low heeled black shoes' - 'The school requires pupils to change shoes in order to maintain the school's cleanliness, for children to sit on/use/play on carpets and floor areas. A combination of sensible shoes, trainers and plimsolls are suitable for this purpose.'** We reminded parents about our change of shoe policy in our [September 1st edition Newsletter](#)



A sensible shoe for school should offer adequate protection for the foot, and be appropriate for school activities. School shoes must be black. Very light weight shoes, boots, shoes with heels, and shoes in other colours are not suitable, and should not be worn to school.



Please also remember that if children are wearing tights to school, they need to bring socks to wear with their plimsolls for P.E. lessons.



Inspire+ Sports Camp

You can find out about opportunities for half term activities [here](#).