

19 December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We have reached the end of the first term at Outwood Academy City Fields which has seen many changes to the school building and outside spaces. There have also been some changes in the sets that students are taught in which has led to many children being taught by different teachers. All of these changes have had and will continue to have a positive impact on the learning experience for students. I am delighted to inform you that the newly refurbished student entrance is opening again in January which will allow students to access the site via this entrance once again. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the students on their positive conduct whilst we continue with building works on site.

Mr John Cafferky who has been with the school since September 2007 is leaving us at Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for supporting many students over the years and to wish him every success for the future. He has been an outstanding teacher and leader and we hope that he continues to succeed in his new school. We welcome Mr Alex Pearson to the school in January 2020 who will take on the role of Head of PE. In addition, Miss Jessica Ripon will be joining us as the Head of Modern Foreign Languages.

We paid tribute to Elliot Burton, who passed away in a tragic accident during the summer holidays. A day of remembrance was organised for students and staff to write their memories and thoughts to be added to Elliot's book of remembrance.

Furthermore, I would like to thank all those who contributed to the food bank. Both St Swithun's and St Catherine's were very appreciative of the community effort in supporting local families.

Finally can I wish you all a prosperous New Year. To those celebrating the many religious and non-religious events in December, best wishes. We look forward to welcoming all our students back safely on Monday 6th January 2020.

8 December - BODHI DAY

10 December - HUMAN RIGHTS' DAY

22 December - WINTER SOLSTICE

23 December to 30 December - HANUKAH

25 December - CHRISTMAS DAY

31 December - OMISOKA

31 December - HOGMANAY

Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible

Yours sincerely



Michelle Colledge-Smith
Associate Principal

Reminders and Useful information

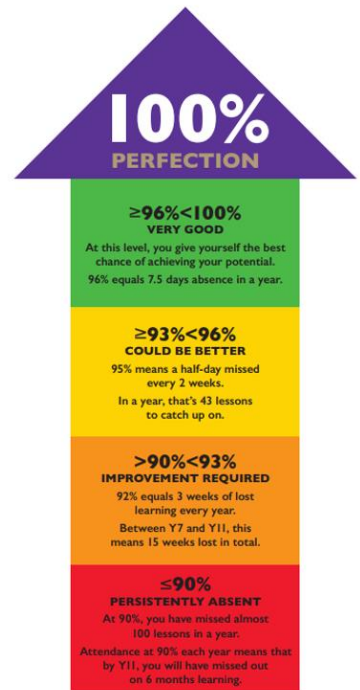
- Attendance:

An important part of the Praising Stars reports is attendance and we know how important great attendance is to school. This is not just because low attendance can have an impact on grades but because it is about establishing positive attendance habits for later in life. Below is a supporting statement from an employer about how much they value attendance.

*“Here at **X Hotel** excellent customer service is at the forefront of everything we do. In order to deliver this, we only employ the best people and we reward them well in return by offering the best salary and benefits in the industry, the best training and an amazing work environment.*

*To be what we as an employer define as “**the best**” you need to be punctual, reliable, focussed and dedicated and a key part of the work ethic we look for is **great attendance**. These attributes alongside your education will set you up for a rewarding and long term career”.*

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



- Homework - All year groups have been set regular homework on Educake (science) and Hegarty (maths). There are leagues which plot each student's success, therefore, please speak to your child about how they are doing and what the packages can offer.
- Cyber Safety - The local authority have provided some useful links for parents/carers this festive season:
 - <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/christmas-is-coming-so-take-control/>
 - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/advice-giving-technology-gifts-christmas>
 - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology>
 - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>
- Flu-like illnesses - we hope you received our information issued from Public Health England. Further information can be found via the following links:
 - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu/>
 - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/>

Reminders:

- iPay - From January 2020 the school will not take any money in school. All payments will need to be made online.
- Chewing gum - We have seen an increase in chewing gum in school. Chewing gum is not allowed in school. Students found chewing will be issued with a C4a. We are trying to improve site quality and the gum that has previously been consumed in school and disposed of without regard for others is taking time to remove. We do not want this to continue.

Up and Coming events:

- Year 8 Guided Pathway Evening - Thursday 9th January 2020 - this is an information evening to help students make their GCSE choices.
- Parents Evening 2 - 27th February 2020.