



Matthew Arnold Primary School

Developing True Potential

Newsletter December 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

The second half of the autumn term has flown, resulting in our fantastic Reception / KS1 and KS2 performances this week. It was lovely that so many families and friends were able to join us to enjoy these. The children have worked very hard on these productions, and their enjoyment and enthusiasm were clear to all who watched.

We have also had a number of very popular stay and play sessions in our EYFS settings, this is a brilliant opportunity for parents to join their child to share learning and find out ways in which they can support learning at home.



On behalf of all the staff and Governors, I wish you a wonderful Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Pupils return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Mrs L Evans



Our current attendance for the year is a 93.5%. This would be higher, but for the significant number of school days we have lost due to children being taken on holiday during term time.

Please can I ask again that you try very hard not to do this. **We NEVER authorise a term time holiday, as we are told not to by the local education authority. Please think carefully about booking holidays where children will miss lessons, especially at the start of the year in September.**

It can be very difficult for children to catch up on what they have missed, or more importantly, on social factors such as friendship groups.

Be on Time, Ten to Nine!

Please remember that **school starts at 8.50am -this is the time of day children should already be in class starting lessons.** Arrivals after 8.50am will be asked to sign their child in.



We continue to benefit from being part of Tesco 'Stronger Starts' scheme. This has increased the amount of fruit available to children at lunchtime—this is in addition to their usual dessert and is available to those children on packed lunch too.

We have had the opportunity to provide fruit / vegetables for parents and will be doing more of this in the spring term—keep a look out for this on the yard!

Do you know what your child is doing online?

All of our computing lessons begin with a ten minute session on e-safety to make children aware of online risks and what to do if a concern arises.

Snapchat is a popular app with many of our children. **Please make sure you monitor and support your child in using this appropriately.**



What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time e.g. 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

What should I be concerned about?

Risks of using Snapchat include your child viewing content that is not appropriate for them, location sharing and contact from strangers.

NEW safeguarding features

Snapchat have recently announced their newest features to help protect 13-17 year-olds. The features include seeing a warning message if they receive a chat from someone who has been blocked/reported by others. Also, if a teen blocks a user, it will also now block any future friend requests sent from accounts created on the same device (to reduce the potential of bullying). **These two features are available to users aged 13- 17-year-olds, this is one of the reasons why it is always important for your child to sign up with their correct date of birth.**

Family Centre

Family Centre is a set of parental controls designed to help you see what your child is doing when using Snapchat. You must have your own Snapchat account to set it up. Family Centre allows you to see who your child is friends with, who they are communicating with (not the contents of conversations though) and who your child has sent messages, photos or videos to in the last week. You will also be able to report any accounts that you are concerned about as well as restrict sensitive content.

Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing full uniform for school—this includes a Matthew Arnold school jumper.



I have noticed a number of children wearing jewellery for school. Please remember jewellery is NOT allowed in school, apart from small stud earrings. If children are wearing other jewellery to school they will be asked to remove this as it is a potential hazard, especially during playtime and physical activities.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 7th January—Children return to school

Friday 14th February—Break up for half term

Tuesday 25th February— Children return to school

Friday 4th April—Break up for Easter break

Tuesday 22nd April—Children return to school

Designated Safeguarding Officer: **Mrs L Evans**

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer: **Mrs R Pender**

How to contact us:

Dingle Lane, Liverpool, Merseyside, L8 9UB

Children Centre: 0151 233 4930

W: www.matthewarnold.co.uk

E: admin@matthewarnold.co.uk