

Thursday 7th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school at the start of a new academic year. We hope you have had an enjoyable summer break.

Dates for Your Diary:

w/c Monday 11th September – Team building week. During this week classes will build a scarecrow in preparation for the Ossett Scarecrow Competition.

Saturday 30th September – Ossett Scarecrow Festival, to be held in Ossett Town Centre.

Tuesday 17th October – Nursery walk around the local area. This is dependent on us having enough parents volunteer to join us and the weather being suitable.

Friday 20th October – Individual and family photographs.

Friday 20th October – Break up for the October half term holiday. We return to school on Monday 30th October.

Tuesday 31st October – We invite parents into Nursery for a physical development and writing workshop.

Monday 6th November - We will be celebrating bonfire night at Nursery with hotdogs, drinks and bonfire treats. All parents and carers are invited to join us. This will be during normal Nursery hours.

Thursday 14th December - Nursery Christmas Inspire Day.

For Nursery parents who are new to Gawthorpe we hold our INSPIRE days annually. We ask that an adult (either a parent, grandparent, relative or family friend) come along to this session in order to work with children on a 1:1 basis. We know from feedback that parents and children greatly value INSPIRE events.

Attendance

We cannot stress enough the importance of good school attendance.

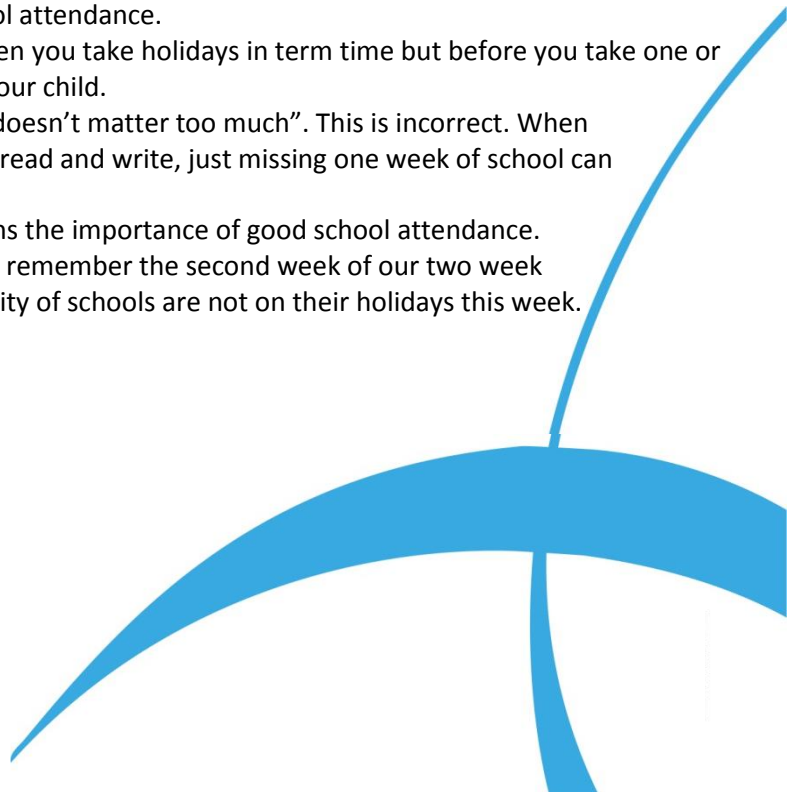
We do acknowledge that you can get cheaper deals when you take holidays in term time but before you take one or more of these holidays please consider the impact on your child.

Parents sometimes tell us “My child is only young so it doesn’t matter too much”. This is incorrect. When children are at the start of their school lives learning to read and write, just missing one week of school can have a significant impact.

Please find attached to this letter a leaflet which explains the importance of good school attendance.

Also attached are the holiday dates for this year. Please remember the second week of our two week Spring Bank holiday is often cheaper because the majority of schools are not on their holidays this week.

These documents are also available on our website.



Complaints Policy

Our Complaints policy has been updated and is available on our website under policies.

<http://gawthorpeacademy.co.uk/policies>

Become a Parent Governor

We are looking for parents to join our Governing Body. Your input on issues such as finance, site management and curriculum development will help to influence and improve school performance. Governors support the school in a variety of ways in addition to attending governing body meetings. It is a very important and worthwhile job! You do not need special skills or experience, but you should be interested and willing to become involved.

Being a governor is an enormously challenging and rewarding opportunity. The personal benefits can be summarised as:

- A sense of satisfaction through knowing children will benefit from your efforts
- The opportunity to develop new skills and to strengthen existing ones
- The opportunity to work with people from a variety of social, cultural and religious backgrounds
- The opportunity to gain understanding in key areas such as finance, personnel, and strategic planning
- The opportunity to gain awareness of the education system as a whole

Find out more about school governors at www.becomeagovernor.com

If you are interested then please ask at reception for details and a nomination form. The closing date for this round of nominations is Friday 22nd September 2017.

We very much look forward to working with you over the course of this academic year.

Regards,

The Leadership Team



Mrs S J Vickerman
Executive Principal



Mrs A M Mitchell
Head of School



Mrs P Clark
Deputy Head of School

Who to contact in case of absence

If your child is absent please contact school either in person or by telephone as soon as possible on the first day of absence.

The telephone number is 01924 679680.

Our Academy Attendance Officer is Mrs Diane Pyrah and our designated Education Welfare Officer is currently Mrs Mandy Lloyd.

Gawthorpe Community Academy

High Street, Gawthorpe

WF5 9QP

01924 679680

enquiries@gawthorpeacademy.co.uk

Gawthorpe Community Academy

Attendance Matters

Working Together



Why is good attendance and punctuality so important? The Facts

- Taking 10 days absence for family holidays in an academic year means that the maximum attendance your child can achieve is 94.7%.
- Gawthorpe academy expects that **ALL** children will achieve a minimum of 95% attendance regardless of their year group. Every stage of a child's education is of equal importance.
- Regular attendance at school is a legal requirement and it is vital if your child is to benefit fully from their education.
- Any absence can disrupt your child's education – whether through illness or holidays in term time.
- Everyday your child is absent they miss important lessons (summer born children already have 2 full terms less than autumn born children).
- It is very easy to fall behind with work, but very difficult to catch up.
- Having an education will give your child the best possible start in life.
- Two weeks absence means your child loses 60 hours of learning which they can never get back. Your child could miss a whole topic which will not be revisited.
- A two week holiday during term time every year of your child's life equals almost 2 full terms of education missed over their whole school career.
- Friendships suffer – during 2 weeks' absence social groups change. Your child may not fit back into the same friendship group on his/her return.

Parents Responsibilities

As a parent, you have a legal responsibility to ensure that your child attends school regularly.

You must make sure that your child-

- Arrives at school on time.
- Attends regularly.

Please make sure your child leaves home on time. If travelling any distance please allow ample time for traffic or other delays.

The door opens at 8:45a.m. Morning registration begins at 8:50a.m. and closes at 9:00a.m. Children who are not registered in class by 9:00a.m. will be marked as unauthorized absence in the register and must sign a late-comers slip in the main office.

If your child is absent from school please:

As early as you can on the first day of absence telephone the academy on 01924 302975 or call at the academy reception or inform the teacher in person.

Or

When your child returns to school please send a signed/dated note which gives the reason for the absence.

The local authority's policy not to authorize holidays during term time has been adopted by the academy. Government advises that you should not take your child out of school for family holidays during term time. The regulations make it clear that parents have no right or entitlement to take their children out of school for family holidays.

Please try to arrange doctors/dentist/hospital appointments out of school hours.

School Responsibilities

- To work with parents to encourage regular attendance and punctuality of their child.
- A record of attendance must be kept giving the exact reason for the child's absence.
- If no reason is provided by parents (by telephone, in person, in writing) the absence will be recorded as unauthorized (DfES class this as truancy) and will remain on the child's record.
- If your child is absent, it may be that school will contact you to establish the reason for the absence.
- The school will promote and encourage good attendance via its reward system.
- The school and Education Welfare Officer will conduct attendance checks throughout each half term.
- Children with poor attendance records and lateness will be monitored and followed up by the academy and / or Education Welfare Officer. In extreme cases excess absence could lead to official warnings or even prosecution and fines. This information can be transferred to the High Schools.

Gawthorpe Community Academy

2017-2018 School Calendar

September 2017						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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October 2017						
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November 2017						
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December 2017						
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31						

January 2018						
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28	29	30	31			

February 2018						
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March 2018						
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April 2018						
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29	30					

May 2018						
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June 2018						
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July 2018						
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August 2018						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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26	27	28	29	30	31	



Bank Holidays



School Holidays



INSET Days



Closure Day for Building Work



Nursery Closure Dates for Home Visits