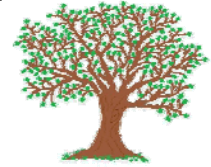




Weekly Newsletter

The Tweeddales

Tweeddale Primary School
Thursday 13th September 2012



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to The Tweeddales after a summer of very mixed weather, family holiday fun and the MOST AMAZING OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS Great Britain has ever seen! The children arrived back looking refreshed and rested and very smart in their uniforms and ready for new and challenging learning experiences.

Celebrating the Olympics and Paralympics - During the summer holidays, the whole world was captivated by the fantastic achievements of amazing athletes who achieved the unachievable and conquered the unconquerable. Team GB were inspiring and certainly made us proud. Tweeddale Primary were lucky enough to take children on three separate occasions to the Olympics and Paralympics. We are celebrating the games in assembly this week and the children are sharing their first hand experiences.

Olympic Houses at Tweeddale - We are introducing a House system in school this term and the children will be choosing Gold Olympians to be the house name. There will be 4 houses and all the children will know the name and the athlete who is an inspiration to their achievements this year. They will be able to choose the house name from a range of 3 athletes and there will be many opportunities to win House Points across the year. Watch out for the house names next week.

Ambition at The Tweeddales - This year, we are thinking about our ambition for our futures and what we would like to achieve in life. The children have been talking about how the Olympians have achieved a goal and we would like to hear about the jobs you do and how you achieved that profession. Please can you let me know if you would like to talk to the children in assembly and widen their choice for a fulfilling future.

Attendance and Punctuality in 2012-2013 - Congratulations everyone on achieving our 94% Attendance target for 2011-2012. This achievement has played a huge part in helping children to achieve greater progress in their learning and our best attenders are guaranteed to make the best progress. A fantastic achievement. Brilliant!!!

Parents and Carers will remember that Tweeddale School updated the Attendance Policy last year. The policy was shared with all families and this will now take effect from September 1st. You will remember that a major change to our policy is to stop parents and carers from withdrawing children from school, during term time, to go on holiday. This is now not authorised and parents and carers can receive a penalty notice of £60.00 per parent. See the attached information on Penalty Notices.

May I remind parents and carers that you need to collect your child from school at 3.20pm (3:10pm for Reception classes). Children who are not collected on time are supervised by their class teacher until 3.30pm and then taken to Miss Wood's office where a member of the Senior Leadership Team will continue the supervision until they are collected. On arrival, parents and carers will be asked to sign a late collection register and complete a form to provide a reason for children waiting in school beyond 3.30pm.

Meet the Teacher - For the first 2 weeks of term, each class and year groups' parents and carers are invited to meet their child's class teacher. This is a designated time to meet the teacher, find out about your child's learning opportunities, expectations for behaviour and positive attitudes. There will be information about trips that take the learning beyond the school gates and new ways of working this year. Your children are supervised by staff during the meeting and we will be delighted to see you there.

Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) - Please look out for a PTFA letter coming soon to invite you to the Annual General Meeting.

Best wishes
Geraldine Wood
Headteacher

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to these children who achieved a Headteacher Award in the first week of a new year at The Tweeddales:

Jessica Gilmour, Hannah Angchangco, Stephen Quiring, Rahatul Islam and Dhanus Vimalendran

Well done to you all



Dates for your diary

Sunday 16th September -
Wednesday 19th September Year 6 residential trip to Kingswood
Monday 17th September..... 9:00 Year 1 Meet the Teacher
..... 3:00 Year 3 Meet the Teacher
Tuesday 18th September 9:00 Year 2 Meet the Teacher
Friday 5th October Jeans for Genes day
Monday 8th October School photographer to take individual pupil photographs
Thursday 25th October Harvest Festival
Friday 26th October Break up for half term (at normal time)
Saturday 27th October..... Play Centre Open Day
Monday 5th November..... Children return to school




Term Dates 2012-2013

These are the London Borough of Sutton term dates for 2012-2013 along with the Tweeddale INSET days.

Tuesday 4th & Wednesday 5th September 2012	- INSET Days	Thursday 28th March 2013	- Last day of term
Thursday 6th September 2012	- Children return to school	Monday 15th April 2013	- INSET Day
w/c 29th October 2012	- Half term (1 week)	Tuesday 16th April 2013	- Children return to school
Friday 21st December 2012	- Last day of term	w/c 27th May 2013	- Half term (1 week)
Monday 7th January 2013	- Children return to school	Friday 28th June 2013	- INSET Day
Friday 15th February 2013	- INSET Day	Wednesday 24th July 2013	- Last day of term
w/c 18th February 2013	- Half Term (1 week)		

Children's Centre Information

A full timetable of our activities can be found in the file downloads area on the Tweeddale website www.tweeddaleprimary.sutton.sch.uk. You can also follow us on  www.twitter.com/TweeddaleCC



Family Fun Activity Group at Tweeddale Children's Centre Saturday 15th September 9:30-11:30am

For Dads, Mums, Step Parents, Grandparents and Carers with their children who are under 5. The group is aimed at children under 5 years old but our doors are open to your child's siblings up to the age of 11 years old.

We have fun indoor and outdoor activities, with **no need to book, just drop in and join in the fun!**

What happens if I don't pay?

You have up to 42 days from issue of the Notice to pay the fine in full. After this time, if the Notice remains unpaid, the Local Authority is required, in accordance with the Act, to commence proceedings in the Magistrates court for the original offence of failure to ensure your child's regular attendance at school.

If found guilty, parents/carers can be fined up to £1000 each parent, per case.

The Magistrates Court is also able to impose other sanctions such as Parenting Orders.

Can I be prosecuted if I pay the Penalty Notice but my child is still missing school?

Not for the period included in the Penalty Notice: payment discharges your liability in this respect. However, it may be that a prosecution is considered for further periods of unauthorised absence, not covered in the Penalty Notice. In this instance, it is vital that you work closely with your child's school, and support agencies such as the Borough School Attendance Service.

Can I get help if my child is not attending school regularly?

Yes. The Local Authority and your child's school will give you advice and support if you need help to improve your child's school attendance, although you should be aware that this is ultimately the legal responsibility of the parent or carer.

It is very important that you speak with the school or with the Borough School Attendance Service at the earliest opportunity if you have any worries at all about ensuring the regular and punctual attendance of your child at school.

Unauthorised Absence From School

Education Act 1996
Education and Inspection Act 2006

Penalty Notices

Advice for Parents and Carers



London Borough of Sutton

Borough School Attendance Service
The Grove, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3AL
020 8770 6605

Why have Penalty Notices been introduced?

Reducing absence from school is a key priority nationally and locally. Missing school lowers a pupil's achievement levels and disrupts school routines, and can the learning of others. It can also cause a pupil to be vulnerable to anti-social behaviour and youth crime.

Above all, missing school seriously affects children's longer-term life opportunities.

The Borough School Attendance Service is authorised to issue Penalty Notices, on referral from schools for unauthorised absence, in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act 1996, and the Education and Inspection Act 2006.

What is a Penalty Notice?

Under existing legislation, parents and carers commit an offence if their child fails to attend school regularly, and the absences are classed as unauthorised (those for which the school cannot, or has not given permission). Depending on circumstances, such cases may result in prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

A Penalty Notice is an alternative to prosecution, which does not require an appearance in court, but which seeks to secure improvement in a pupil's attendance. Full payment of the Penalty Notice discharges parents and carers of any further liability for the period stated on the Notice.

What are the costs?

The fine is £60 if paid within 28 days of issue of the Penalty Notice, increasing to £120 if paid after this date, but within 42 days of issue. (An invoice served by first class post is deemed to have been received on the second working day after posting.)

How are they issued?

Penalty Notices will always be issued by first class post.

Who are they issued to?

A Penalty Notice is issued to **each** parent in respect of **each** child not attending school. "Parents" in Education law relates to a parent or carer of the child(ren).

When are they issued?

The London Borough of Sutton considers that regular attendance at school is of such importance that Penalty Notices may be issued in a range of situations, such as:

- Your child has unauthorised absences from school
- Your child is persistently late at school after the registers have closed
- Taking unauthorised holidays in term time
- Unauthorised absence from alternative education provision

The Local Authority never takes such action lightly and would rather pro-actively work with, and support parents and carers to improve Attendance, without having to resort to any enforcement action.

However, the Local Authority will use the powers if this is considered the only way of securing a child's regular attendance at school.

Is a warning given?

The usual response to a first offence will be a written warning in a letter from the Borough School Attendance Service. This warning remains in effect for one year.

However, in exceptional circumstances, the Local Authority has the discretion to issue a Penalty Notice without a warning, for example where a parent has chosen to take their child on holiday during term time, without prior authorisation from the school.

Can I appeal against the Penalty Notice?

There is no statutory right of appeal once a Penalty Notice has been issued.

How do I pay?

Details of payment arrangements will be included on the Penalty Notice. You need to be aware that payment in part, or by instalment, is not an option with Penalty Notices. They must be paid in full.