



The school year 2024-25 brings **IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE LAW** regarding school attendance.

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence, including unauthorised holiday absence, has been introduced following changes to the law from 19 August 2024,

What are the changes?

1. There will be a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice must be considered.
2. The rules mean you can't take your child out of school for one week's holiday without a penalty notice being issued.
3. There will be an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.
4. If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.
5. If a parent then commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will need to consider other enforcement options available to them.

We would like to thank parents and carers for their support in making sure that children do not miss any learning time.

Here is the link to the Sefton School Attendance Policy based on these changes

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/farnborough-road-infant-school/UploadedDocument/6598d49e-93f4-43f5-bae4-74590fa0567a/sefton-school-attendance-policy-2024-2025-final.pdf>



Thank you to Reverend Jennie Hardy from St John's church Birkdale for conducting our Harvest assemblies and

THANK YOU for your contributions and overwhelming response to our Harvest collection for The Food Pantry at Liverpool Road Methodist Church on Tuesday. If you are in need of help and support remember to ask or drop in to the Family Wellbeing Centre and we can arrange a visit to the Pantry.



Brighten up our day on World Mental Health Day Thursday 10th October.

On this day we are asking children to wear a splash of yellow with

their uniforms. Wearing yellow glasses, a yellow bow tie, yellow ribbons, yellow pumps, yellow socks, yellow t-shirt so that

we can raise the awareness and the importance of good mental health. During the week children will be taking part in a number of wellbeing activities. We have a theatre group bringing Roald Dahl humour to World Mental Health Day, Mrs Fletcher our ARTs and Oracy Governor will be doing drama workshops with our Early Years children around the book Star in the Jar, each of our children will be receiving a crocheted star from the Southport Hookers. KS1 children will be doing a Yoga session with Miss Calvert. Our homework this week will have a wellbeing focus too.





FRIS Baby News

We are pleased to announce that Miss Owen, Mrs Flanagan and Mrs Bailey have given birth to their babies in the last few months.



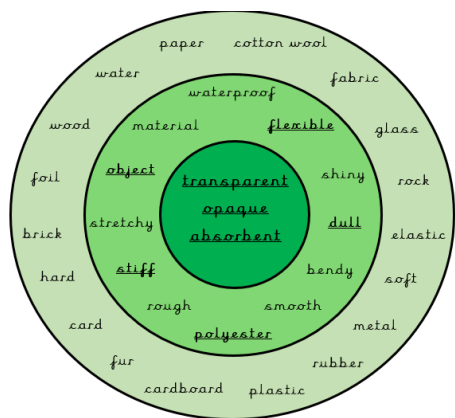
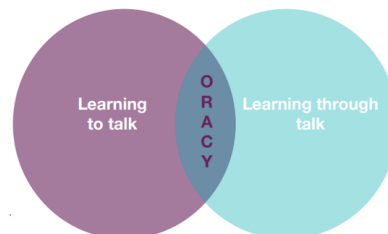
Miss Owen to a little girl, Ophelia, Mrs Flanagan to a little boy, Elliot and Mrs Bailey also to a little girl on Tuesday morning this week.



Voice 21 Update

Oracy is a powerful tool for learning; by teaching pupils to become more effective speakers and listeners we empower them to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them. Good oracy skills increase confidence, self-esteem and empathy, develops cognitive ability and success in all areas of school. We want our children to have the oracy skills to thrive in the world they will be living in and be confident to agree but also disagree and challenge other people's views and opinions in a respectful way. It is also a route to social mobility, empowering all students, not just some, to find their voice to succeed in school and life.

We began working with Voice 21 as a partner school in 2022 to build a whole school culture which values and celebrates students' voices. We have specialist leadership for oracy within our school, developing and implementing best practice and supporting our students to learn *to* talk and *through* talk.



As a school, we are very proud of our bespoke oracy curriculum. We have mapped oracy opportunities and progression from caterpillars to Year 2. Classroom practice is supported by the Voice 21 Toolkit and high-quality professional development for staff. We use progressive talk guidelines to outline expectations for talk such as speaking in full sentences and using appropriate body language. The children are taught to use 'talk tactics' effectively to instigate, build, challenge, probe and summarise effectively during discussions. Vocabulary dartboards are utilised to develop our children's understanding of ambitious language. Every class has an 'our voice' floor book to document their high quality discussions. This year, we are aiming to become a Voice 21 Centre of Excellence!

Moving forward, we are going to be posting oracy challenges for you to discuss with your child at home. This could be a conversation for around the dinner table or on your walk to school! Keep an eye out on ClassDojo for the first challenge.

Our school values are:

COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE HONESTY RESPECT and LOVE AND KINDNESS



REMINDER- ACTIVATE NOW

Please ensure you have activated your Parent Pay account. Clubs and PTA events will be going live next week. Usernames and Passwords were sent on the 20th September. Don't miss out!!!

**FRIS PTA
AGM
COFFEE
MORNING**

Friday 11th
October 2024

9am
Infant Hall



Please join us for a friendly coffee morning when our AGM is taking place. This is a chance to discuss upcoming events your child can attend this year!

Don't forget your wellies!

HOLMESWOOD



Weatherboards provided

PUMPKIN PLACE

Pick your own!

Open from Saturday 28th September until Thursday 31st October

Entry Fee Adults £2.50 | Children £1.50
* Entry fee does not include a pumpkin *

No Booking Required - No Time Restrictions

Parking, Toilets, Cash or Card Payments, Refreshments

Days Welcome (on a short lead)

Holmeswood Road,
L40 1UA (B5246)

FIND US ON:



 FOR MORE DETAILS & DIRECTIONS



Attendance Matters
...every school day counts!

Our class weekly attendance is shared in Friday's 'Star of the Week' Assembly and the children are keen for their class to win the Attendance Bear each week.



Best Class Attendance this week is :



100% (Room 2) (EYFS)

97.6% (Room 14) (KS1)

Well Done to all of the children in these classes.

Important

Drop Off and Pick Up Reminders

Please ensure children are dropped off and picked up by an adult. It is our school policy that children will not be released from school with anybody not on their contacts list or under the age of 16.

Please inform your child's class teacher of any changes to pick up arrangements in the morning. If during the day arrangements change, please try to inform the office by lunchtime to ensure that the message is passed to classrooms. Class Dojo messages WILL NOT be picked up during the school day by class teachers. Please ensure all contacts and contact details are updated



Working in Partnership with Parents

Thank you to all our parents in Year 1 and Year 2 parents who attended our Stay and Learn sessions. Your attendance is invaluable to our children, to us as teachers and you as parents to understand how we teach and how your child is learning.

Our first Parents Evening will also take place next week for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents, a chance to find out how your child has settled in and the expectations for the year ahead.

Thank you for all your support and feedback. Remember class teachers are always available to talk to you about your child's progress throughout the year.

Our Google Meets parents meeting was due to an overwhelming response to our parent/carer survey "What a great system, I did not need to organise a whole evening of childcare for a 5 minute appointment".

"It was great that myself and my wife could join the meeting as I work shifts. I could just log in at work and take a 5 minute break"

"Thank you for offering google meets, the appointments ran to time and did not impact on my family time and evening routine"

The survey feedback also expressed how the spring term parents/carers 10 minute appointments, would be better as 'face to face' meetings. This allows parents/carers to view books/displays/learning journeys and have a detailed update on their child's progress.

Parents' Evening invitations will be sent out at 4pm on Friday 4th October.

We look forward to seeing our Reception parents in school on the week beginning 14th October for Stay and Learn



Infant School Photograph Day Wednesday 16th October

Individual School Photographs will be taken for all children on Wednesday.

If your child does not attend on Caterpillars/ Nursery on a Wednesday and would like an individual photo please arrive at the INFANT OFFICE at 8.30am. Class and sibling photos will be taken later in the school year.

Lunchtime Supervisor

Would you like to work at FRIS?

Welfare assistants required 6.25 hours per week. We currently have a vacancy for a permanent lunchtime supervisor and for supply cover for absent staff. If you are interested application forms are available from the Infant School Office. Full DBS clearance is required for this role.



Danielle Southern is our new community Staff Nurse with the School Health team.

Her contact email address is danielle.southern@nhs.net. If you would like any support from Danielle and you would like us to make a referral please don't hesitate to let us know.

Online Safety Newsletter

Oct 2024

iOS 18 Launch

Apple have recently released their latest operating system, iOS 18. iOS 18 offers lots of new features (some are restricted to newer phones) but one feature that you should be aware of is the ability to now lock and hide apps.

When an app is locked, Face ID, Touch ID or your passcode will be required to open it. This also means that notifications will no longer be shown for that app. Additionally, apps can now be hidden so they can only be accessed through a hidden apps folder that is also locked. This new feature illustrates the need to have regular chats with your child about what they are using their phone for.

Vault (secret) Apps

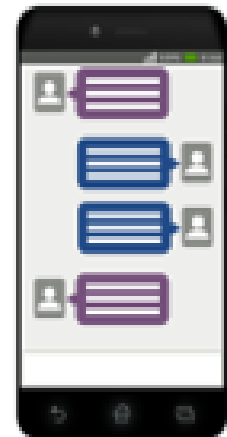
Have you heard of Vault Apps? They are basically secret apps that are concealed by looking like a normal, less conspicuous app. For example, one of these apps looks and works like a working calculator when opened, but when a passcode is entered, it reveals photographs, videos, documents and contacts. One way to prevent your child from using these apps is to ensure parental controls are set up so you can review all app purchases. You can find out more here:

- <https://www.bark.us/blog/finding-hidden-apps/>
- <https://www.safes.co/blogs/vault-apps/>

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams



What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

EE launches Age Guidance

EE has launched age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up. You can read the full guidance here:

<https://newsroom.ee.co.uk/ee-launches-age-guidance-for-smartphone-usage-in-drive-to-improve-childrens-digital-wellbeing/>

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then Which? provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.
Current as of the date released 01.10.24.

Instagram: new Teen account features

You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account.

Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls and send disappearing messages. Users can also upload to 'Stories' (which disappear after 24 hours), broadcast live and upload reels (short videos).



Teen accounts – NEW feature

Instagram have introduced Teen Accounts to try and create a safer experience for them. With a Teen Account, who they can contact is limited and the content they access will be set to the most restrictive setting to reduce exposure to sensitive content. If a teen would like to override any of these settings, then they will need their parent's permission by setting up parental supervision. These changes will be in place for all new users straightaway so any users that sign up that are under 16 will automatically be given a Teen Account. Existing users will be moved over to Teen Accounts over the next couple of months (in the UK).

Supervision settings – new features

Instagram already offers a supervision facility, but they have added to the features to include:

- The ability to see who your child has messaged in the past week (you will not be able to see the contents of these messages)
- The option to block your child from accessing Instagram at certain times e.g. during school or at night.
- The ability to see what topics your child has chosen to see.

Read the press release from Instagram, which outlines all the upcoming changes: <https://about.fb.com/news/2024/09/instagram-teen-accounts/>

You may not be seeing everything!

Did you know that you can hide your stories and live videos from specific people so your child could be uploading content but restricting your account from viewing it?

Safety Features

Ensure your child knows how to report posts and people, how to unfollow and block people, delete and turn off comments. View here:

<https://help.instagram.com/269765046710559>

Make sure your child understands that there is a risk that content they upload can be shared with others without their permission as other users can screenshot it.

More information

- Visit the family centre to learn more about the features available: <https://familycenter.meta.com/uk/>

Learn Through Play with Sesame Street

The Sesame Street website has a whole host of resources, activities, and games from supporting with learning ABCs to discussing tough topics such as grief.

<https://sesameworkshop.org/>

Expert Approved Apps for Learning at Home

On the Google Play Store, you can find a list of expert approved Apps for learning at home suitable for children up to the age of 12.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/category/FAMILY>

Be aware of what you share

Get Safe Online have produced a set of tips to help you avoid oversharing and outlines what the consequences might be if you do:

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/whatdoyoushare/>

Staying safe online with Google Families

Google have a one stop resource to help you and your family stay safe online. It includes how to set up parental controls and important steps on how to keep your children safe online. You can find out more here:

<https://families.google/>