



CHECKENDON CE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

22nd January 2010

After School Clubs

We would like to run an after school sports club on Wednesdays, starting on Wednesday 24th February. We would be interested to know which sports the children would be most interested in so that we can meet your needs, so please do fill in the attached questionnaire and return to the school office by Monday 1st February. We would also be interested to know of any other clubs the children would like. We plan to continue football on Thursdays.

Coerver After School Football Club - Thursdays

Please note that the After School Football Club starts **next Thursday 28th January**. If your child wishes to attend, please make sure you return the form on the attached letter to the school office by Monday 25th January.

Morning Registration

The school day starts at 8.50 am. It is important that the staff register the children at 9.00 am. Delays in registering could lead to health and safety issues if there were to be an emergency evacuation of the school. We ask, therefore that parents leave the classroom by 9.00 am, so that the register can be taken. If you wish to discuss any issues with the teacher, it is better to leave this until the end of the school day, unless it is urgent. The teacher will have more time then.

Any children arriving after the register has been taken should report to the office to ensure that they have been registered for the morning.

Absences

If your child is unable to attend school it is important that you contact the school office as soon as possible, explaining the reasons for non-attendance. If your child is absent and we have not heard from you, we will attempt to contact you during the day. All absences are allocated a code in the register. Registers are monitored by the OCC Educational Welfare Services. If you want to make certain that your child is allocated the correct code, we recommend that you inform us of the reason for absence in writing. A copy of this will then be filed in the register.

The ESW (Education Social Worker) will be visiting the school on Friday, 29th January to monitor the registers. We enclose a copy of our Attendance Policy for your information.

Musical Concert Wednesday 10th February

Mrs McClure will be organising a concert in the afternoon (during school hours) for any child who plays an instrument or sings. This is to give those children who learn instruments, whether in school or elsewhere, a chance to perform to an audience and possibly inspire others to learn too. (NB this is for children only - not parents). Please encourage your children to take part and let their instrumental teachers know.

Parent Consultation Evenings

We will be holding our parent consultation evenings, an opportunity to meet the class teacher and discuss your child's progress, on Wednesday 10^h February. Appointment lists for you to sign will be in the entrance hall from Monday 1st February. The office staff will contact the parents of children who normally travel on the bus to arrange an appointment for them.

Dates for your Diary

Tues 26 th January	Panda Class trip to The Steam Museum at Swindon
Thurs 28 th January	After School Football Club starts
Weds 3 rd February	Mobile Library
Weds 10 th February	Parents' Evening (3.30 onwards)
Fri 13 th February	Last day of Term 3
Mon 22 nd February	First day of Term 4
Tues 23 rd February	Rhino/Panda Class – "Zoolab" visiting school (pm)
Weds 24 th March	Year 6 – Junior Citizen at Fire Station, Oxford
Weds 31 st March	Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion in Church (2.00 pm)
Thurs 1 April	Last day of Term 4
Tuesday 20 th April	First day of Term 5

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To: Checkendon School Office

After School Clubs

Names of children:

Year groups:

Preferred sport for Wednesday after school club sports club (please tick):

Hockey: Golf: Tag Rugby:

Multi-sports: Tennis: Pop Lacrosse:

Athletics: Rounders:

Other:

Which other after school clubs would your child/children be interested in attending?

Which evenings would be most convenient?

Any other comments on after school clubs?

CHECKENDON

C of E (A) Primary School
Checkendon
Reading, RG8 0SR

Headteacher: Mary Bather



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

A pupil who misses a day of school a week misses an equivalent of two whole school years in their school life. This obviously leads to gaps in their knowledge that become difficult to fill.
Oxfordshire County Council

Pupils of school age must by law attend school regularly. If a child is to be away from school parents or carers need to ask the school to approve the absence. There is a difference between authorised absence from school and unauthorised absence. Unauthorised absence can result in prosecution.

Authorised Absence

If a child is ill, or unable to attend school for some other reason, parents or carers should contact the school by telephone or email by 10am on the same day. If the reason is acceptable, then the school will authorise the absence. Unacceptable reasons for absence include:

- Shopping;
- Birthday treats and trips;
- Looking after others at home;
- Non-urgent medical or dental appointments.

If parents or carers of absent children have not contacted the school by 10am the school will telephone the parents or carers. There is also a Health and Safety aspect to 'First Day Calling' – a child missing from school may be injured, or worse.

Unauthorised Absence

If reasons for absence are unacceptable, or if the school is unable to make contact with the parents or carers, the absence will be unauthorised. Such absences carry with them the risk of prosecution.

Monitoring of Absences

Absences from school are monitored by the head teacher and by the Oxfordshire County Council Education Welfare Services (EWS). The EWS also has the responsibility of working with families and young people where the level of absence is giving cause for concern. The EWS will therefore work with the school to identify causes for concern where the special help of the education EWS officer may be needed. The EWS officer will often visit the home and talk with pupils and parents about the problem and seek to resolve it amicably and achieve a return to school. However, should absence persist and there be no genuine reason for this, the ESW has the power to prosecute parents for not sending their children to school.

Holidays in term time

Schools do not have to agree to absence for a holiday, although they have the power to do so. Oxfordshire set high attendance targets for each school, and are currently concerned about the amount of holidays taken in school time throughout the county. Approval is at the discretion of the headteacher, and Oxfordshire's guidance is that permission should only be given to parents who are able to make a strong case for their child being treated differently from the norm. Such cases may include family living overseas or parent's employment dictating holidays at a set time of the year.

When considering taking a child out of school for a holiday, parents should think about the following:

- 10 days taken out for holiday each year (whether in a block, added on to weekends, or added to the beginning or end of school holidays, or just odd days) may seem only a small proportion of the 190 school days in the year. However, if 10 days are taken every year of primary school, this means that 14 weeks of primary education are lost. If this continued throughout secondary school, the total amount of time lost would be equivalent to more than 6 months of the child's statutory education.
- Missed time in school can have a detrimental effect on future learning. Children's learning can be likened to building with blocks, and is built up in small steps. New skills and concepts introduced each day build on those introduced the previous day. When a child misses even one day, their learning is interrupted and their learning on the days when they are in school will be less effective.
- Missed time in school can also have a negative effect on personal and social development. Children whose education is regularly interrupted may have more difficulty in settling into the school routine and in making friends.
- Missed time at the beginning or end of a term can be particularly detrimental. The beginning of a term, or school year, is the time when a child makes new friends (or re-establishes old friendships) and settles into the term's routine. The end of term is the time when children celebrate achievements together and when many of the class and whole school social events occur.
- The Education Social Worker (ESW) at Oxfordshire County Council monitors school attendance regularly and will contact the school and parents if they are concerned about a particular child. A significant number of absences, whether authorised or not, can trigger ESW intervention.

If, after considering all these points, parents still wish to take holiday in term time, they should complete the appropriate application form (available in the school office) at least two weeks in advance. Each request for leave for a holiday will be considered individually, but the most important consideration is the effect the absence would have on the child's education because absence, due to holidays taken during term time, could hinder academic attainment.

Head teacher:

Date adopted:

Chair of Governors: