



# October Newsletter 2024

## Marlborough Infant School

Dear parents and carers,

What a brilliant start to the term! Thank you for all of your support already this term and for recognising the importance of your child's attendance in school.

Your children have already started making visible progress in their learning and as a school, we have been immensely proud of their behaviours whilst travelling around the school, when completing their work, when speaking to visitors and on the playground!

Thank you for all of your ongoing support!

Mrs Webb and Mrs Pinto



Hampshire County Council are offering free\* courses for parents this autumn term. To book, visit the website below:

<https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/learning-in-libraries>

\*Tuition is free but some courses may have a certification or materials fee.

Course	Location	Date	Time
Raising Resilient Children	Online	Mondays 16 Sept - 14 Oct	7pm - 8:30pm
Introduction to Paediatric First Aid	Online	Tuesdays 24 Sept - 15 Oct, or Tuesdays 12 Nov - 3 Dec	6:45pm - 9:15pm
Time Out for Parents	Alton Library	Saturdays 5 Oct - 19 Oct	10am - 2pm
Emergency Paediatric First Aid	Havant Library	Monday 21 Oct, or Friday 22 Nov or Friday 6 Dec	9:15am - 4:30pm
Makaton Signing with Babies and Families	Gosport Discovery Centre	Thursdays 7 Nov - 12 Dec	10am - 11am
Listen Chatter and Learn	Petersfield Library	Mondays 11 Nov - 2 Dec	10am - 11:30am
Positive Parenting	Online	Mondays 11 Nov - 9 Dec	7pm - 8:30pm
Emergency Paediatric First Aid	Bridgemary Library	Friday 29 Nov	9:15am - 4:30pm

If a course you're interested in is full, If a course you are interested in is full, please e-mail [learninginlibraries@hants.gov.uk](mailto:learninginlibraries@hants.gov.uk) to be added to the waiting list.



It's that time of year again for **Harvest** and the Farnborough Foodbank would like to say thank you for your support last year as with your help, they were able to feed approximately 3,600 people last autumn when so many were being hit by the Cost of Living crisis and are still recovering from this.



**This year, they have expressed an urgent need for the following items:**

- Cereal variety packs
- Custard packets
- Jam
- Pasta sauce jars
- Long life milk - no skimmed please
- Long life juice
- Small long life fruit juice
- Rice pouches - plain
- Tinned meat/fish
- Tinned meat pies
- Tinned hotdogs/meatballs
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned soup
- Packets of noodles
- Pot noodles
- Sugar
- Deodorant (male and female)
- Shower gel
- Washing up liquid
- Feminine hygiene
- Tea/coffee

If you would like to support the foodbank by making a monetary donation, please scan the QR code below:



Please see the guidance that we have been given regarding whooping cough:



There has been a continued increase in pertussis (whooping cough) cases at the start of this year, with 553 confirmed in England in January, compared with 858 cases for the whole of last year (2023).

The current increase is coming at a time when there has been a steady decline in uptake of the vaccine in pregnant women and in children. In response to increasing case numbers, the UKHSA is reminding mums-to-be to get protected against whooping cough so that their young baby has protection from birth against this serious disease and to ask their midwife if they are unsure. UKHSA is also urging parents to check that their children are vaccinated against whooping cough, which is offered to all infants at 8, 12

It is Walk to School Month this October. You may have seen Basil the Bird out on the streets, bringing some brightness to a dull, grey day!

Walking, scooting or cycling all count as an active mode of transport so please try to do one of these at least once per week this month—more is even better!

Even this small change can make a big difference to children's mental and physical health, setting them up well for a day of learning.



## Key Dates

### October:

9/10/24 - Flu vaccine

10/10/24 - Year 1 - Milestones trip

10/10/24 - Year R/Early Years - parent phonics workshop

15/10/24 - Year R/Early Years - stay and play session

24/10/24 - Harvest Festival at the Church—parent arrival at **9:30am**

24/10/24 - Halloween disco

25/10/24 - Last day of half-term

**Please note:** 4/11/24 - INSET day



## Starting school in September 2025

If your child is 4 or will turn 4 before **1 September 2025**, they can start school in **September 2025**.

For more information go to [www.hants.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hants.gov.uk/admissions)  
Applications open for Hampshire residents on **1 November 2024**

THE NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS  
IS WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2025

**DON'T MISS IT!**



Our Harvest Festival is  
taking place at:

North Camp Methodist Church  
45 Lynchford Rd  
North Camp  
Farnborough  
GU14 6EG



Back in 2021 YouTube introduced new parental features, called **Supervised Experience** and this was for parents of children under 13 who were using YouTube.

Now, YouTube is extending Supervised Experience for parents. In early September, they announced that parents/carers will be able to link their children's account to the parent account where parents will have the ability to see some limited information such as number of video uploads, comments etc.

Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/kids/parent-resources/> to read more about how to create a **Supervised Experience**.

For **trusted parent reviews** on apps, films, games and more, visit: <https://www.common sense media.org/>





# New attendance rules!

There are new rules for unauthorised absences, whether this is due to holiday, irregular attendance, or otherwise. Don't get caught out!

## I'm a single parent of one child and I want to go on holiday for 5 days or more.

Let the school know before you book anything and make sure you use the absence request form. A holiday **will not** be authorised. If your child misses at least 5 school days, you'll be given a penalty notice fine. This fine is per child, per parent...



+ £80



+ £80



**1 parent & 1 child = £80 if paid within 21 days**

*Increases to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days*

**1 parent & 2 children = £160 if paid within 21 days**

*Increases to £320 if paid between 21 and 28 days*

## For a family of 2 parents & 2 children



+£80



+£80



+£80



+£80

**£320 if paid within 21 days**

*Increases to £640 if paid between 21 and 28 days*

## What happens if school suspects children are actually on holiday?

Photos on Facebook? Foreign mobile dial tone?  
Home visit shows no-one at home? Amazing sun tan?  
Children talking about your holiday?



Please don't be offended if we ask these questions or ask for evidence - we're required to do this to ensure a fair system!

## What about subsequent absences? Is it still the same penalty amount?

**NO!** If you have a second holiday in a rolling 3-year period you will receive a higher fine of £160 per child per parent. If you have a third holiday in a rolling 3-year period there is an immediate referral for prosecution

### 2<sup>nd</sup> TIME

**2 parents and...**

1 child = £320

2 children = £640

3 children = £960

*No discount for early payment!*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> TIME

A penalty notice fine **will not** be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2,500 for each child.

**1 parent & 2 children = £5,000**  
**2 parents and 2 children = £10,000**

## What about irregular attendance? Could I get a penalty notice?

**YES!** If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks, and their absences are unauthorised, then the school is required to consider penalty notices / prosecution.

### PENALTY!



So, half a day here and day there could all add up to 10 sessions in 10 weeks. If unauthorised, then it would be a penalty notice. Remember, 1 day is 2 sessions (morning and afternoon).

## What are typical reasons given that won't be authorised?

### Examples of unauthorised absences

A family member's birthday  
Shopping for uniforms  
Inadequate clothing for school  
Child being used as a carer  
Problems with transport

Family holidays  
Sickness of parent or sibling  
Sibling's school closed  
Refusing to attend, but able to  
Poor family organisation  
No absence request completed

Where attendance is irregular, or historically poor, sickness absences may be unauthorised unless medical confirmation by a GP surgery is given.



**EVERY DAY COUNTS – ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

