Lower Farm Weekly

Friday 22nd December 2023

Thank you to everyone for all your help and support this term. It has been an exciting term for all of us with our Nursery opening full time and our expansion to now 9 classes. It has been lovely to welcome and get to know our new pupils, staff and parents/carers and we hope you have enjoyed the start to this year too.

Thank you to all the staff and our Friends of Lower Farm PTA for all their efforts in hosting the Nativity performance and Christmas Fayre - both of which I hope you agree were amazing successes. We raised £2,238 at our fayre this week - absolutely incredible, thank you.

We wish you all a happy and healthy festive period and a very happy and peaceful 2024.

Value Awards

Well done to those who have particularly stood out for displaying our school values this week.

Beech
Keziah   All school values

Birch
Jayden   Effort

Cherry
Joel   Achievement & Care

Chestnut
Marcel   Achievement, Care and Respect

Elder
Charlie   Resilience and Respect

Elm
Edie   Achievement & Integrity

Hazel
Esmae   Care, Respect & Integrity

Holly
Sanuka   All school values

Oak
Xander   Resilience, Collaboration and Achievement

Attendance
For week beginning 18th December

Beech Class	**100%**
Birch Class	**100%**
Cherry Class:	**92.7%**
Chestnut Class:	**93.7%**
Elder Class:	**88.8%**
Elm Class:	**91.2%**
Hazel Class	**88.3%**
Holly	**93.0%**
Oak	**86.7%**

Congratulations to those classes that have reached an attendance of **97% or above**. It would be great to see every class reach 97% in the new term.
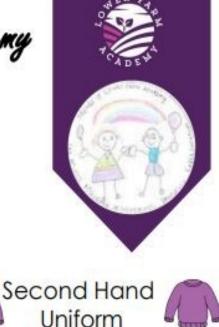
Friends of Lower Farm Academy

Christmas Letter

Christmas Fayre

Thank-you to everyone who volunteered, donated and attended the Christmas Fayre, we raised an amazing amount of:

£1,226.37

Thank You!

Dunelm   ASDA

Recent Purchases

- Annual Subscription for new books in the school library
- Voice recording machines
- Sensory Products

2024 EVENTS

9th February
Flip & Dip Magic Show
21st March
Easter Bingo & Raffle
29th June
Summer Fayre

Second Hand Uniform

To order second-hand School uniform, pricelist and forms can be located in the weekly school newsletter and emailed to friends@lowerfarmacademy.org Donations are greatly received and can be placed inside the uniform bin outside Office reception

Friends of Lower Farm Academy are made up of parents and teachers who volunteer time in organizing events to raise money for the events and equipment school.

In September, we have had new members join us:- Laura, Darren, Vicky, miss Tibbets and Mr Tyson.

If you want any further information on Friends of lower farm academy or want to volunteer in the Helping Hands Group please email us: friends@lowerfarmacademy.org

Merry Christmas and Festive Wishes From Friends of Lower farm Academy PTA

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The regulations regarding Leave of Absence (The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.) advise:

- Head teachers **shall not** grant **any** Leave of Absence during term time **unless they consider** there are **exceptional** circumstances relating to the application.

If the leave is granted, Head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. When making an application for Leave of Absence in advance parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is their responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence and could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case-by-case basis and on its own merits.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice. All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council.

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

Warwickshire School pupils recorded 96,366 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Academic year 2021/22.

Dates for your Diary

Christmas Holidays: Monday 25th December – Friday 5th January

Monday 8th January: Staff inset day - school closed

Tuesday 9th January: School opens for spring term
Wednesday 31st January: Parent/Carer Share Event 14:30
Friday 9th February: Friends of Lower Farm Magic Show

Half Term: Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February

Wednesday 21st February: Parents/Carer Pupil Progress Meetings 13:30 - 18:00
Friday 1st March: Non-uniform day – Easter Egg donation
Friday 8th March: Year 2 Mothers' Day 14:00 - 15:00
Thursday 14th March: Parent/Carer Share Event 14:30
Friday 15th March: Red Nose Day-details to follow
Thursday 21st March: Easter Bingo and Raffle
Friday 22nd March: School closes at 13:30 for Easter holidays

Easter Holidays: Monday 25th March – Friday 5th April
Monday 8th April: Staff Inset Day – School closed

Tuesday 9th April: School opens for summer term
Monday 6th May: Bank Holiday
Friday 17th May: Parent/Carer Share Event 14:30
Friday 24th May: Non-uniform day – bottle donation

Half Term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Friday 7th June: Non -uniform – gift donation
Friday 14th June: year 3 Fathers' Day 14:00 — 15:00
Saturday 29th June: summer fayre – sports day
Monday 8th July: Parent/Carer Share Event 14:30
Wednesday 10th July: Transition Day

Lower Farm Academy

Second-Hand Uniform List

Item	With Logo	Without Logo
T-Shirts – White	£1	50p
T-Shirts Purple PE	£1	50p
Jumper / Cardigan	£3	£1
Trousers	£2	
Shorts Black/Grey	£2	
Shorts PE Black	50p	
Skirts	£2	
Dresses	£2	

Item	Age	Qty	Total
		Total	

Name ....

Collection .... (Please specify from main reception or from class. Please state class name if class)

Payment .... (Card only) Please email this form and a contact number to friends@lowerfarmacademy.org, and a payment link will be sent to you via email or number)