



Dear Parents and Carers

Well, what a week of fantastic festivities our children were involved in last week! From fayres to productions, it was a week to remember, and it only continues as we finish this term with a flourish!

Firstly, I huge thank you to our brilliant PTA team, who alongside school staff put on one of our best Christmas fayres! As well as an appearance from St. Nick himself, we were treated to a plethora of stalls and treats. However, at events like this, the cream often rises to the top, and I have to give a big shout out to Miss Humphrey who, on the splat the teacher stand, certainly took one for the Brookvale team! Some very impressive aims from our children - I guess all you need is the right inspiration! The fayre was also an opportunity to taste the delicacies of another school first; The Great Brookvale Bake Off! As resident judge of the event, I would like to say well done to all entrants on their showstopping designs - all worthy of elusive Mr Mills Handshake!

Finally, last Friday saw our world-famous Christmas Concert return in spectacular fashion. Led by Choir Master Miss Willars and our harmonious staff, children performed superbly to a full house of parents, carers and community members. These are the events our children will remember forever, so thank you for giving over your homes to practices and purchasing tickets to support such a wonderful occasion.

But the performances don't stop there! This Friday we are delighted to welcome parents and carers of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to our Key Stage One Nativity. Another highlight of the year, this is sure to melt hearts and spread that Christmas cheer.

Thank you for your continued support

Mr Mills



Upcoming events

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 17/12/24 | Family Christmas Lunch 11.30am for house groups Zephaniah and Phelps |
| 18/12/24 | Family Christmas Lunch 11.30am for house groups Lewis and Cadbury |
| 19/12/24 | Non uniform day Snowball 3.30pm—5pm Places booked and paid for on MCAS |
| 20/12/24 | Award and 100% attendance assembly Whole school party afternoon Break up for Christmas |
| 23/12/24 - 03/01/25 | SCHOOL CLOSED |
| 06/01/25 | TEACHER TRAINING DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED |
| 07/01/25 | Back to School |
| 22/01/24 | School trip to The Panto at the Birmingham Hippodrome |

Weekly Attendance



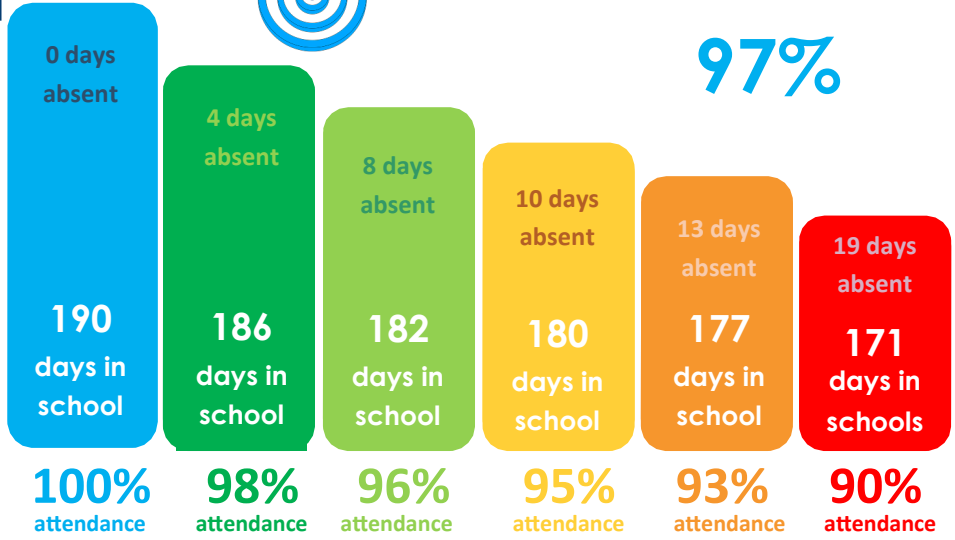
09/12/2024 to 13/12/2024

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Reception | 89.67% |
| Year 1 | 93.33% |
| Year 2 | 91.67% |
| Year 3 | 95% |
| Year 4 | 92.67% |
| Year 5 | 97.67% |
| Year 6 | 94.52% |



Our School Attendance Target is

97%



Best chance of academic success and in later life.

Poor attendance—less likely to succeed academically/in later life.

Serious impact on education and reduced life chances

This week's Class Attendance Superstars



You get extra playtime!

This week's 100% attendance
You each win a new book.



Zakariya Y1
&
Aria Y6

You each win a new book.
Great Job!

Attendance This Week

94.14%



Attendance Year-to-Date



96.23%



175 days off school per year.

Use this time for holidays, appointments etc

We are caring citizens, shaping our communities.

We are ambitious for our success and the success of others.

Shaping Our Children's Futures, Together.

We are passionate about everything and everyone.

We are the authors of our own lives.



Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools about managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone school on the first day by 9.15am. Inform school that your child won't be in and give the reason, please don't just say they are ill. If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, inform their teacher as well as the school office.

The following guidance is from the NHS (please click on the link for more information):

- **Coughs and colds** It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.
- **High temperature** If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.
- **Chickenpox** If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.
- **Cold sores** There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a cold sore. Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.
- **Conjunctivitis** You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.
- **Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
- **Vomiting and diarrhoea** Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for 2 days (48 hours).
- **COVID-19** If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either:
 - ☐ have a high temperature
 - ☐ do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities
- **What to do if your child has tested positive** Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.
- **Hand, foot and mouth disease** If your child has hand, foot and mouth disease but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.
- **Head lice and nits** There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.
- **Impetigo** If your child has impetigo, they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.
- **Ringworm** If your child has ringworm, see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.
- **Scarlet fever** If your child has scarlet fever, they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.
- **Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)** You don't need to keep your child off school if they have slapped cheek syndrome because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. But let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.
- **Sore throat** You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of tonsillitis.
- **Threadworms** You don't need to keep your child off school if they have threadworms. Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Cough/cold in children 1 year and over - Advice Sheet

Advice for parents and carers



Cough is extremely common in children and usually gets better by itself with no specific treatment, although the cough often takes 2 to 3 weeks to disappear. Occasionally, children with cough can sometimes develop a chest infection.

When should you worry?



RED

If your child has any of the following:

- Is going blue around the lips
- Has pauses in their breathing (apnoeas) or has an [irregular breathing pattern](#) or starts [grunting](#)
- Severe difficulty in breathing - too breathless to talk or eat/drink
- A harsh noise as they breath in ([stridor](#)) present all of the time (even when they are not upset)
- Becomes pale, mottled and feels abnormally cold to touch
- Becomes extremely agitated (crying inconsolably despite distraction), confused or very lethargic (difficult to wake)
- Develops a rash that does not disappear with pressure (the '[Glass Test](#)')

You need urgent help.

Go to the nearest Hospital Emergency (A&E) Department or phone 999



AMBER

If your child has any of the following:

- Has laboured/rapid breathing or they are working hard to breath - [drawing in of the muscles below their lower ribs](#), at their neck or between their ribs
- A harsh breath noise as they breath in ([stridor](#)) present only when they are upset
- Seems dehydrated (sunken eyes, drowsy or not passed urine for 12 hours)
- Is becoming drowsy (excessively sleepy) or irritable (unable to settle them with toys, TV, food or picking up - especially if they remain drowsy or irritable despite their fever coming down)
- Has extreme shivering or complains of muscle pain
- Continues to have a fever of 38.0°C or above for more than 5 days
- Is getting worse or if you are worried

You need to contact a doctor or nurse today.

Please ring your GP surgery or contact NHS 111 - dial 111 or for children aged 5 years and above visit 111.nhs.uk



GREEN

- If none of the above features are present

Self Care

Continue providing your child's care at home. If you are still concerned about your child, contact NHS 111 – dial 111 or for children aged 5 years and above visit 111.nhs.uk

YOU SHOULD CHECK NHS 111 ONLINE / CALL 111 IF

- Pink / red eyes / cough / runny nose
- Ear pain less than 2 days
- Mild tummy pain that comes and goes

For up to date advice on COVID-19 and childhood illnesses/injuries visit: www.nhs.uk OR
<https://bwc.nhs.uk/>
<https://www.birminghamandsolihullccg.nhs.uk/your-health/children-s-young-people-and-maternity-services-during-covid-19>

YOU SHOULD CALL YOUR GP/111 IF

APPEARANCE

- Mild allergic reaction (known or suspected)
- New rash that fades when you press it

BEHAVIOUR

- Mild irritability/sleepier than normal
- Moderate tummy pain
- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Ear pain for more than 2 days

BREATHING

- Wheezing
- Fast Breathing

OTHER

- Temperature
 - More than 39 in child aged 3-12 months
 - More than 38 in a child for 5 days or more
- Not passed urine for 12 hours

YOU SHOULD GO TO A&E IF

APPEARANCE

- Dizziness/feeling faint
- Rash that doesn't fade when you press it

BEHAVIOUR

- Severe tummy pain

OTHER

- Burn
- Possible broken bone

OTHER

- Swallowed foreign objects
 - Especially magnets/batteries
- Temperature higher than 38 in a baby younger than 3 months old
- Your child has a specific health care plan that tells you to go to A&E
- Head injury

YOU SHOULD CALL 999 / GO TO A&E IMMEDIATELY IF

APPEARANCE

- Pale/Ashen/Mottled/Blue Colour
- Collapsed/unresponsive/loss of consciousness
- No obvious pulse or heartbeat
- Severe allergic reaction

BEHAVIOUR

- Extreme
- Irritability
- Pain
- Sleepiness (can be woken but falls asleep immediately)
- Seizure/jerking movements/fit

BEHAVIOUR

- Sucking in and out between ribs
- Flaring nostrils
- Extremely fast breathing
- Noisy breathing

OTHER

- Bleeding from an injury, that doesn't stop after 10 minutes of pressure
- Overdose of medication or other substances

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT 24/7 FOR ALL AGES IN BIRMINGHAM & SOLIHULL Call 0800 915 9292 / 0121 262 3555

In Birmingham (FTB) - age 0-18 Years

- 7 Days a Week 10am-6pm
- 0207 841 4470
- Email: askbeam@childrenssociety.org.uk

In Solihull (SOLAR) - age 0-18 Years

- Mon-Fri 8am-8pm 0121 301 2750
- Weekends and Evenings 8pm-8am 0121 301 5500

Kooth – For 11-25 year olds in Birmingham and Solihull

Peer to peer support through moderated discussion forums, self-care tools and resources and online mental health counselling and chat services from 12pm-10pm during the week, and 6pm-10pm at weekends: www.kooth.com

Parental Safeguarding



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, travelling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, topping Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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We are ambitious for our success and the success of others.

Shaping Our Children's Futures, Together.

We are passionate about everything and everyone.

We are the authors of our own lives.



News Items



A few highlights from our fabulous Christmas Concert



Merry Christmas!

Tuesday 17th December for

ZEPHANIAH and PHELPS

Wednesday 18th December for

CADBURY and LEWIS

Choose a Main

**Roast Turkey
or
Halal/Quorn Roast**

**Roast Potato,
Stuffing and Yorkshire Pudding
and Gravy**

With

Brussel Sprouts and Carrots

For Dessert

**Sticky Date Pudding with
Caramel Sauce**

**Please ensure that you arrive by
11.30am if you have booked to
have lunch with your child.**

**Log onto MCAS to book and pay £3.50 for
1 adult per family**

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE NOT CATERED FOR

**You will be able to book your child's Christmas meal on Relish
from Friday 29th November**

Brookvale's Snow Ball

(Children attending the Snow Ball do not need collecting from school until 5pm)

Thursday 19th December

3.30pm–5pm

SOLD OUT

Non Uniform Day so children will already be in their festive outfits.

Children not attending will need to be collected at the normal time

3.20pm for Rec 3.25pm Y1—Y6