



16th April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Despite the chill in the air and the heavy rain this afternoon, our summer term began today! It's been a positive day with enthusiastic learning happening across the school. General school updates and diary dates are included in this letter for the term ahead.

Diary Dates

- **Wednesday 17th April** - Forest School begins for Year 1
- **Wednesday 17th April** - 5pm, Year 5 Parents' Meeting for Sayers Croft
- **Thursday 18th April** - Year 4 swimming lessons begin
- **Monday 6th May** - Bank Holiday
- **Monday 13th May** - Year 6 SATs week
- **Friday 17th May** - 9am, Year 1 Learning Assembly

Attendance and Punctuality

All pupils of statutory school age should attend school every day and parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school regularly and on time – by 8.40am. Pupils should only be absent from school if they are ill or have an exceptional reason for absence. Requests for exceptional leave of absence should be made using the form on the [school website](#).

Holidays are not authorised during term time and a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued if parents take holiday during term time.

'Persistent absence' is when a pupil's attendance falls below 90%. The school will contact parents when their child's attendance is close to, or falls below 90%, so that support can be offered and improvements made. If a pupil's attendance does not improve, a referral to an external support agency (such as the Local Authority Inclusion Officer) could be made and a Fixed Penalty Notice could also be issued.

The school will contact parents whose children have been regularly late for school so that improvements can be made.

Being absent from school and arriving late at school affects pupils' social, emotional and academic development so it is vitally important that all children attend school regularly and arrive on time.

Parking

Many of you have spoken to the school about the issues with parking and congestion in the car park at the end of the school day. The decision was made in July for the school day to finish at 3.10pm for EY and KS1 and 3.15pm for KS2 which has increased the number of cars in the car park at the same time. I am in discussion with the governors about possible ways to alleviate the congestion in the car park and hope that now the Thames Water work is complete, congestion around the school will ease a little. However, we do want to ask for your help with parking:

- Children's safety has to be at the forefront of everyone's minds when they park their cars.
- It is essential that cars are parked appropriately in the designated spaces and do not block crossing points or lines of vision.
- If there is no space in the car park to park in a designated car parking space, a space should be found in one of the side streets in the village.
- Only cars displaying Blue Badges should park in accessible parking spaces.

We also ask that engines are switched off when cars are parked and waiting for the children. Engine idling increased the amount of exhaust fumes in the air, which is dangerous for health (particularly children and adults with asthma or other lung diseases) as well as being harmful to the environment.

I am in touch with our PCSO for additional advice to help keep our children safe and to avoid congestion and delays.

Parent Volunteers

Thank you to the parents who have expressed an interest in volunteering their time to support activities at school. We would like to ask for volunteers to support reading, board games/activities at lunchtime or to lead after school activities. All volunteers would be subject to safeguarding checks and would have to apply for a DBS via the trust. An induction meeting would also be held with a member of SLT. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please [complete this form](#).

Uniform

A reminder that all children should wear the correct Tatsfield School uniform to school every day. This includes black school shoes.

Children should wear the school PE kit to school on class PE days. If it is cold, a plain black jumper/hoody can be worn (no logos). Football kits should not be worn.

SMART watches and jewellery should not be worn to school. This includes **stud earrings and silicone/clear plastic earrings**.

Make-up, nail varnish or false nails should not be worn at school.

The full school uniform list is available on our [school website](#).

Water Bottles

All children should bring a water bottle (labelled with their name) to school each day. Bottles are taken outside at lunchtimes so that children can have a drink as they play.

PTA Spring Fling

The PTA Spring Fling is only few days away! Tickets are on sale at the gate at the beginning and end of the day, or can be purchased using the link in the poster below. Raffle tickets will also be on sale every day at the gate – these can be bought even if you are unable to attend the event on 27th April.



[Tatsfield Primary School Parent and Teacher Association \(pta-events.co.uk\)](http://pta-events.co.uk)

With best wishes for the term ahead,

Rachel Jewitt

Rachel Jewitt
Headteacher