



Belton Update

13th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Happy New Year to you all. I very much hope you had a lovely festive period. We are back in full swing at school now. We are very excited to be working with the community on their village hall project! Watch this space!

Thank you to all the adults who took the children to Young Voices this week. It is always a fabulous event and I know the children (and parents) loved it.

Turntabling after school club (Year 3-6) has 12 spaces and the sign up is on WEDUC now.

Next week Badgers will be having a day where we have visitors in from different jobs talking to them about all the different things they could do. We hope it will give them food for thought for the future.

We have also signed up to support Leicestershire Holidays to help support children facing poverty or other challenges. We will be taking part in their colour dash in April.

[Home - Leicester Children's Holidays \(leicesterchildrensholidays.co.uk\)](http://leicesterchildrensholidays.co.uk)

Well Dones

Well done to Rosie and William for this week's bookmark challenge! Enjoy your new book!

Golden Book entries this week were:

Noah, Ethan, Harry, Lacey, Ruby, Annalise and Imogen.

Well done superstars!

Well done Ava for making the County swimming championships

Willow – Autumn 2 Housepoint Challenge winners – Non uniform day Thursday 19th January

Headlice

We do seem to be having a little outbreak at the moment. Please help us to eradicate it by making sure long hair is tied back and check your child's hair for any visitors!

PE Kit

Please make sure for PE your child has the correct kit. This includes the correct colour tracksuit bottoms.

For PE all children need

Indoor PE

- plain round neck T shirt in house colour red, green, blue and yellow
- **black / navy blue shorts**
- black plimsolls
- drawstring bag (clearly labelled with child's name)



Outdoor PE: (KS1 & 2 pupils)

- a hoodie (plain in house colour red, green, blue and yellow)
- black or navy-blue tracksuit/jogging bottoms/leggings
- trainers

Uniform

Now the winter is really kicking in please so make sure your child comes to school with a coat. They may wear skins **but these need to be under trousers** and if they are worn under the school T shirt please also bring a jumper.

Attendance

Letter from our attendance officer



You may receive a letter from her if your child's attendance is below 90% or of concern.

Please note I cannot authorize holidays in term time unless exceptional circumstances.

YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Dear Parent/Carer,

My name is Paula René. I am a qualified Education Welfare Officer (EWO) from Children's Attendance Welfare Services. (CAWS). I have been commissioned by the school to address their attendance and welfare concerns.

I check the school's registers regularly, specifically concentrating on any child whose attendance falls below 95%, where a substantiated reason or evidence has not been provided. If this be the case I may write to you regarding it.

My letter will:

- ✎ Highlight your child's attendance with an invitation for you to contact me.
- ✎ Inform you that your child's attendance will be monitored closely until improvement is deemed satisfactory.
- ✎ If necessary, include an appointment for you to meet with me to address the issues which you feel may be preventing your child from attending school regularly; this is with a view to offering support and solutions to bring about change.

A child, whose attendance falls below 90%, is deemed to be a "Persistent Absence" pupil as set out by the Department for Education (DfE). Should your child fall into this category, you **WILL** be required to provide the school with evidence to support any further absences, this is to enable the school to authorise the absence.

THE EDUCATION ACT 1996, SECTION 444 STATES:

"If a child of compulsory school age, who is a registered pupil at a school, fails to attend regularly at the school, his parent is guilty of an offence".

In view of the above, I seek your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and on time, as failure to do so means you place yourself at risk of legal action in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice and/or Prosecution through the Magistrates Court.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's attendance, or the contents of this letter, I invite you to contact me, either by:

EMAIL: paula@childrensattendance.co.uk

PHONE: 0116 277 6721

Yours sincerely

Paula René
SENIOR EDUCATION WELFARE OFFICER

Children's Attendance
Welfare Services Ltd

✉ paula@childrensattendance.co.uk

☎ 0116 277 6721

🌐 childrensattendance.co.uk



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

The law states that a parent/carer is responsible for ensuring their child attends school regularly and on time. Failure to do so renders the parent/carer guilty of an offence.

- ✦ Compulsory school age is from 5 years to 16 years of age.
- ✦ Ideally a child's overall attendance should be above 96%.
- ✦ Parents/carers are expected to inform the school on the first day of their child's absence to give the reason why their child is not in school. Failure to do this means the school will code the absences as **UNAUTHORISED**. Prolonged non-contact from the parent could lead to a "Safe and Well Check" being initiated on the grounds of safeguarding, (this can involve the Police).
- ✦ A child's absence from school is either recorded as authorised or unauthorised by the school. Parents/carers **CANNOT** authorise their child's absence.
- ✦ School can request supporting evidence from parents/carers, this allows them to record a child's absence as authorised.
- ✦ School will discuss with and may refer cases where appropriate, to their Education Welfare Officer, should a child's attendance become a concern or fall below 95%.
- ✦ The Department for Education (DfE) considers a child, whose attendance falls below 90%, as a "**persistent absent**" child. Schools are expected to address attendance at this level and **not** continue to authorise any further absences unless evidence is provided.
- ✦ The regulations regarding holidays in term time changed on the 1st September 2013. These regulations prevent Head Teachers from authorising holidays in term time except in exceptional circumstances. **PARENTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED NOT TO BOOK HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME WITHOUT FIRST SPEAKING TO THE SCHOOL OR EWO.**
- ✦ Children are expected to attend school for 190 days per academic year; the other 175 days are spent at home with you 😊
- ✦ Legal action can be taken against parents/carers by the Local Authority if their child's absence has been recorded as unauthorised. This can either be a:

FIXED PENALTY NOTICE (A FINE)

£60 per parent, per child if paid within three weeks, doubling to £120 per parent, per child if paid in the fourth week. Payment is required in full. Failure to pay will result in the Local Authority submitting the matter for prosecution through the Magistrates Court.

PROSECUTION

In the Magistrates Court. The Court can impose a fine of up to £2500 and or 3 months' imprisonment – parents may also be expected to pay court costs and a victims surcharge. The parent/carer usually receives a criminal record. Parents/carers may also be required to attend a parenting course.

Paula René
SENIOR EDUCATION WELFARE OFFICER



Badgers PE - Monday
23rd January 2023
6th February 2023
6th March 2023
20th March 2023

Squirrels PE - Monday
16th January 2023
30th January 2023
13th February 2023
13th March 2023
27th March 2023

IMPORTANT

Diary Dates

19th January Willow Non Uniform Day

Maths Open Morning 1st February 9.15am-10.15 am

6th -10th February Mental Health Week

10th February Dress to Express Day

17th February Leading Lights online meeting Be Skilled

20th - 27^h February Half term – school open Tuesday 28th February

28th February Author Visit

