



Ivingswood Academy
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Monday 7th January 2019

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you enjoyed a restful holiday, or as restful as this time of year can be. It was lovely to see so many of our children eager and ready to learn on Thursday and there was a lot of exciting things happening just in the two days we had in school.

Welcome

I would like to welcome Mrs Alyson Newington to Ivingswood. Mrs Newington has taken up the post of Inclusion Manager and will lead on Special Educational Needs Provision as well as Attendance, Safeguarding and Child Protection. She will be available on the playground before and after school most days or can be contacted via the school office.

I would also like to welcome Ms Natasha Hollins and Ms Leanne Smith who have joined our office admin team officially from this term. Both are well-known around school as they have been successfully running our breakfast club and are also Midday Supervisors.

School timings

Please remember that the official school start time is 8.30am. Pupils arriving after this time are deemed as being late. Persistent lateness will result in intervention from the County Attendance Officers and can ultimately result in fines and court proceedings. Being 20 minutes late each day can result in 100 minutes of learning being lost each week. Coming into class late can also unsettle children and put them at a disadvantage to their peers.

Absence

If your child is unwell and will not be attending school, please ensure that you call the school office by 9am to advise us of their absence. When pupils are absence for a significant length of time without our knowledge, we are require by law to contact the

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local authority who will then investigate the whereabouts of pupils, often with the involvement of other authorities.

I would also like to request that where possible, medical appointments are made outside of school time. Where this is not possible, please provide the office with written evidence of your appointment: this may be through a text or email as well as hospital letters or appointment cards.

Attendance Winners

Well done to Year 6 who won the attendance award for December with an overall attendance of 96.15%.

So far, our school attendance is currently 92.15%, a long way from our target of 97%. There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and poor attainment: only 33% of pupils with an attendance of between 80-85% go on to achieve grades A-C at GCSE.

Free School Meals

Last week, forms were sent out to all pupils to see whether your child qualifies for free school meals. Although all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 currently automatically receive free school meals, we would like all parents to complete the forms as it benefits the children in other ways in school. Please make sure that forms are completed for all parents who have parental responsibility. If you need any help completing the forms, please speak to Mrs Seal or Mrs Newington who will be happy to help.

Lunch Orders

Please make sure that you order your child's hot lunches via ParentPay a week in advance. We are only sent enough lunches for those who have ordered which means that we do not have spare lunches for children who have not ordered in advance. Please speak to the office staff if you need help with ordering meals.

Uniform and PE Kits

Most of our children have returned to school looking very smart in their school uniform but there are a few that are not quite in the correct uniform. The details of the required uniform are on our website: <http://www.ivingswoodacademy.co.uk/uniform/>.

ALL children should be wearing the correct uniform and have the right PE kit. Remember that children should wear black school shoes or boots (not trainers). Children with long hair need to have it tied up for school. If your child does wear earrings, they should be small studs, not hoops and be removed for PE. If they have

recently pierced ears, please ensure your child has some tape which they can put over their earrings for PE so that the earrings don't catch on anything and cause an injury.

Please also ensure that your child has a change of clothing in school for PE, which this term will be inside. Black shorts and a white t-shirt are the minimum requirements. It is important for safety purposes that children have the correct clothing. PE kits may be left in school each week and will be returned home at each half term to help to ensure that children have the correct clothing for each lesson.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast club will be relaunching on Monday 14th January. We have been given funding from the Department of Education to improve our current provision and hopefully encourage more children to attend: research shows that children who eat breakfast are most successful learners than those that don't. Look out for more information coming this week.

Chesham Schools Carnival

This year Ivingswood will once again be participating in the Chesham Schools Carnival and will soon be looking for volunteers to help build the float as well as help out with the event on the day. Mrs Dunton is co-ordinating this event so please let her know, via the school office, if you are keen to help.

Celebration Assembly

Celebration assemblies will recommence from this Friday, 11th January at 2.30pm. All parents, carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles are welcome to join us. Please enter via the Drama Room.

I look forward to another successful term at Ivingswood Academy, with lots of exciting events coming up – watch this space!

Yours sincerely,

Julie-Ann Swaysland

Headteacher

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