



William Austin Infant School

Newsletter 9 January 2025

www.williamaustrininfants.co.uk/

email: office@williamaustrininfants.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new Term, and a new year! I hope you had a lovely winter break, and to those who celebrate Christmas I hope you enjoyed this special time of year with family and friends.

I wish everyone a peaceful and prosperous 2025!

Best wishes

Mrs Kang, Headteacher

URGENT! FINAL REMINDER!

Transfer to Junior School Applications 2025 - Starting School Applications 2025

If you have not completed your 'Transfer to Junior School' online application for your Year 2 child, or 'Starting School' online application for children born between 01/09/2020 and 31/08/2021, this is your final reminder. Please note that the closing date for all applications is Wednesday 15 January. Applications received after this date will be treated as 'late applications' and may affect your child's school place. Please ask at the school office if you are unsure or need further help.

Attendance Policy and Leave of Absence in term-time

Our Attendance Policy is on the school website, please read it carefully. The Attendance Policy has been agreed by the governing body.

I am very disappointed by the number of parents who request leave of absence during term time, particularly where the circumstances have not been exceptional. A number of parents have taken their children out of school against our advice and the absence has been unauthorised as a result. Please think twice about the effect an extended absence from school will have on your child's education before you decide to request any leave of absence.

New statutory guidance regarding unauthorised leave, named 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance', came into effect on 19 August last year, and you should be aware of the changes regarding the issue of penalty notices. This information was shared with you at the start of the Autumn term, but is also available to view on our school website by clicking on the link here: <https://www.williamaustrininfants.co.uk/attendance/>

You may ask for a copy of the Leave of Absence policy from the school office or access it on our website.

PLEASE NOTE

- ◇ Requests for leave of absence will not be granted for the purposes of a holiday.
- ◇ The law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time.
- ◇ Requests for leave of absence will not be granted during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- ◇ Parents are expected to inform us if they intend to travel, preferably before booking their tickets, and definitely before leaving the country.
- ◇ Parents must bring in flight details, including the date the flight was booked, and complete a Leave of Absence request form prior to travel.

Attendance H.E.R.O.

We want to encourage all of our children to be an Attendance H.E.R.O.!

It is very important that children have as little time off school as possible, and we like to recognise and reward children for their good attendance. Weekly, the class with the highest attendance from each year group win an attendance award and each child in that class is presented with an attendance sticker. Each week the classes that achieve the Attendance H.E.R.O. Award are listed on the school website, please click on the link below to view: <https://www.williamaustrininfants.co.uk/attendance-hero/>

Last half term (Autumn 2) 120 children achieved 98% -100% attendance. These children will be rewarded with a Lucky Dip prize next week!

And, there were 48 children who achieved 100% attendance for all of the Autumn Term, and these children will be rewarded with a special Magic Show performance in school next week!

Congratulations to all our Attendance H.E.R.O.s!!!



'Living the values the William Austin Way...'

Our Value for January is Tolerance

Tolerance is about listening to other people's views and respecting them. It is about knowing that people have different views and standing up for what you believe in. When we are tolerant we treat others the way we want to be treated ourselves.

You can show tolerance by:

- Listening to other people's views.
- Learning about different faiths and beliefs.
- Showing respect for each other.
- Being kind to each other.
- Showing patience - waiting for your turn.



Diary Dates

Milk Letter for Spring Term goes home

Friday 10 January 2025

Year 1 and Year 2 After School clubs start

Week beginning Monday 13 January 2025.

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 11 February 2025

Story-telling Week

Monday 3 February to Friday 7 February 2025

Spring Half term Holiday

Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February 2025

End of Spring term

Friday 4 April 2025

Staff Training Day

Tuesday 22 April 2025

Start of Summer term

Wednesday 23 April 2025



Winter Weather

So far this academic year we have been lucky with the weather (apart from all the rain!), but here is a reminder of what happens if the school has to close due to bad weather.

If we get heavy snow and we have to close the school, up to date information will be posted on our school's website at www.williamAustininfants.co.uk as soon as a decision is made. Information on all school closures due to snow can also be found on Luton Council's website www.luton.gov.uk. The page is constantly updated if there is bad weather.

The radio stations have advised the Local Authority that they will no longer read closure lists on air.

We have been instructed by the council that because of Health and Safety concerns we must only grit one path to be used by people who access the school site.

The Year 2 footpath on Culverhouse Road that leads to the Year 2 classrooms and the footpath on Culverhouse Road that leads to the main entrance are the designated paths for use in icy weather.

I know that many of you have to take children to both schools and to Greenside. However, we couldn't possibly grit all the playgrounds and all the paths on the school site quickly enough, so in icy weather please take extra time and care when walking around the school grounds.

Most parents and carers have now signed up to 'Parent Text Notification' so that we can send you a text message, for example if school is closed. If you have recently changed your mobile number, or you do not think you receive these text messages, please call at the school office.

And Finally...!!

The children had a fabulous final day in school before we finished for the Winter Break!

They had a fun afternoon enjoying their class Christmas parties, they played party games and had some party food too!

A special visitor came all the way from the North Pole to say hello too!

We hope the children liked opening the present they received from Father Christmas, and enjoyed the two week winter break!

