**FEBRUARY 2016 Half Term Holiday**

We would just like to take this opportunity to remind you that **Friday 12th February is the last day in school** before the half-term holiday.

On our return there is a staff training day on Monday 22nd February which means that the school will open for the children on **Tuesday 23rd February**.

**EASTER COMPETITION**

On **Tuesday 22nd March** the Friends of Marlfields are holding an Egg Decorating and an Egg Rolling competition. They would like you to decorate at home, a boiled egg in any way you would like. The decorated eggs will then be used in the Egg Rolling competition.

The cost is just **£1** in total for entry into both events. There are prizes for each class for the best decorated egg and for the furthest rolled egg.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance figures for this week are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year 2** | **96.63%** |
| Year 6 | 96.62% |
| Year 5 | 96.01% |
| Year 4 | 95.93% |
| Year 3 | 95.67% |
| Year 1 | 94.55% |
| Reception | 93.64% |

**Well done to Year 2 who are this week’s winners with 96.63%.**

As you can see the margins between the classes are very narrow.

Who will be the winners the first week back after half term?

We still haven’t managed to have a class with 100% Attendance.

Come on ………….. we **need** to have a class with 100% so we can have a huge celebration!

**Bad Debts**

Unfortunately we have a number of parents who are very lax at making payments for things such as school dinners, nursery fees etc. and have built up a considerable amount of debt; because of this we are now in a position whereby we can no longer extend credit to **anyone**.

If you wish for your child to have a school dinner/snack/nursery stay etc. payment **MUST be made in advance.** If payment is not made we will be unable to provide a meal for your child and you will be contacted to bring in a packed lunch or snack for them, or in the case of the Nursery you will be contacted to collect your child at the usual time.

**Free School Meals**

You may be eligible to Free School Meals. Please find below the criteria in which to check your eligibility -

* [Income support (IS)](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/On_a_low_income/DG_10018708)
* [Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)](http://www.direct.gov.uk/prod_consum_dg/groups/dg_digitalassets/%40dg/%40en/documents/digitalasset/dg_200090.html)
* [Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA(IR)](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/Illorinjured/DG_171894)
* support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
* [Child Tax Credit](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/TaxCreditsandChildBenefit/TaxCredits/index.htm), provided you are not entitled to [Working Tax Credit](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/TaxCreditsandChildBenefit/TaxCredits/index.htm) and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed **£16,190**.
* Children who receive Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals.
* [Universal Credit](https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit)
* If you have recently become unemployed or have reduced your working hours and have been granted the four week working tax credits run on, then you may be entitled to free school meals.
* **Please call the Schools Team on 0300 123 5012 for advice.**

**Pupil premium**

Schools receive additional funding for pupils registered with Cheshire East Council for Income Related Free School Meals.  If you are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits you should still apply to Cheshire East Council for Income Related Free School Meals, even if your child will be eligible under the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme, as this will allow your child’s school to benefit from the Pupil Premium funding.

If you think you are eligible for income related free school meals **Phone 0300 123 5012** and they will let you know if the Children in your care are entitled to free school meals. Your entitlement will begin on the day your fully completed application form with the required proof of eligibility is received at the Customer Contact Centre not the date you become eligible to any of the stated benefits. They are **unable to backdate claims** for Free School Meals to cover unpaid dinner money, or to refund any dinner money paid prior to the date of a successful application.

**Inconsiderate/Dangerous Parking/Driving**

The topic of parking has reared its head yet again. Parents are still parking inconsiderately or illegally on Waggs Road, The Crescent, The Westlands and in the parking bays belonging to Westlands Court. To compound the parking issues when confronted by their illegal parking some of our parents have been abusive to other parents and residents! We know that you will agree this is totally unacceptable behaviour. We have passed any information we can verify with regard to the people and car registration responsible to the police for their support. They will visit school more regularly to monitor the highways. A particular concern is drivers driving dangerously close to parents and children walking to school down ‘the gulley’ from The Westlands. Certain drivers are racing to park illegally in one of the private parking bays assigned to Westlands Court. Please endeavour to be considerate with your driving and parking.

**Head Lice**

During the half term holiday please take the time to check and re-check your child’s hair for head lice and if you see any live lice please treat your child accordingly. Hopefully if everyone checks their child’s hair we can be ‘nit’ free when we come back to school.

 **PARENT FORUM**

We are holding our next Parent Forum on **Thursday 24th March at 9.30pm.**

Tea and coffee and an Easter treat will be on offer and our subject for discussion is Social Media and how school uses this. Everyone is welcome please book it in your diary now. Thank you.

**WEEKLY challenge**

Well done to Tâmega Ribeiro in Year 6; the correct answer was WRONG!

This week’s puzzle is ………….

The day before yesterday, Chris was 7 years old. Next year he’ll turn 10. How is this possible?

Send the answer into school on our return to school with your name and class on it and one correct answer will be rewarded with a treat - this will be drawn by raffle if more than one correct answer comes in. Get your thinking caps on for the correct answer and good luck to you all

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **February Half Term** | **Fri 12.02.16** | **Mon 22.02.16 INSET****Tue 23.02.16** |
| **Easter**  | **Thu 24.03.16** | **Mon 11.04.16** |
| **Summer Half Term**  | **Fri 27.05.16** | **Mon 06.06.16 INSET****Tue 07.06.16** |
| **Summer Holidays** | **Wed 20.07.16** |  |

Please enjoy the break and keep safe and well, and we will see you all on **Tuesday 23rd February.**