

JWS Update



15 December 2023

Attendance: 'Missing Children, Missing Grades'

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a report which looks at the relationship between school attendance and academic attainment. The Commissioner's findings were very worrying as there is direct evidence that children who attend school less regularly are less likely to get the GCSEs that they need. This confirms previous Department for Education research on the negative impact of poor attendance on grades and employment outcomes. The report concludes that:

- Poor attendance has a dramatic relationship with GCSE results. While 78% of all children who were rarely absent in Years 10 & 11 passed at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths compared to 36% of children who were persistently absent and just 5% of children who were severely absent in both years reached this same standard.
- When pupils' attendance improves, the likelihood of achieving qualifications at the end of school massively increases.

You can find the report here: [Missing Children, Missing Grades | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/missing-children-missing-grades)

News

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I have spent a bit of time thinking about our school and the journey we have been on over the past two years. It is incredible to note the differences. Every week I am amazed by some aspect of our work; a class, an individual, an event or just a gesture. These past few weeks have further reinforced my view that we are a very special community and here's why:

As term nears to a close, we recognised the talents and efforts of our students. Last week, we saw students enjoy our termly rewards trips to Jump Xtreme/Ninja Warrior. It is a joy to recognise our students in this way and says a great deal about the culture that so many are getting it right so often. Yesterday, we welcomed the Deputy Lord Lieutenant. She came to our school on behalf of the His Majesty the King to receive letters from the students in relation to the change to our school's name. She was extremely impressed with our students, their insightful questions of her role and how they articulated our vision. We also hosted our Christmas Musical Evening. We have so many talented students. I am very grateful to them and to the Performing Arts Department for providing the students with this valuable opportunity to perform.

Wednesday 20 December, Christmas dinner will be available in the school canteen. Students can wear a Christmas jumper with their normal school uniform or other festive accessories. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity for the local food bank. Thank you. All items will be delivered by Thursday 21 December.

Our assessment week, for all students, begins on Monday. We have been very impressed with how students have prepared. Please encourage them to continue to use their iPads, especially the new SENECA learning app, to support their revision. Our rewards assemblies will take place in January 2024, here we will recognise their efforts.

77S Bus Update

I am pleased to be able to advise that National Express are making changes that will improve the overall capacity for students travelling from the New Oscott and Boldmere areas from 7 January. A **New service 77B** will be introduced to operate between New Oscott, Boldmere (along Jockey Road), Sutton Coldfield Town Centre, John Willmott and Fairfax Schools, Falcon Lodge and Bishop Walsh School. This will replace existing service 855, which currently only operates between Sutton Coldfield and Bishop Walsh School. Service 77S, which provides a link between Streetly, New Oscott, Sutton Coldfield, Fairfax and John Willmott, will remain unchanged.

The 77B will depart from New Oscott (outside Tesco) at **07:52** and travel directly along Jockey Road before continuing onwards to Fairfax and John Willmott. The afternoon return journey will depart from Fairfax and John Willmott at **15:40** and continue through Sutton Coldfield to New Oscott. Please note that the afternoon journey will originate from Bishop Walsh and will not commence from John Willmott & Fairfax: these school sites will be served but as an intermediate stop and intending passengers will need to hail the bus in the same manner as any other service. The timetable is available [here](#) and is also on the last page of this newsletter.

'Potential into Reality'

Existing public services 5, 77 and 907 will continue to run frequently between New Oscott and Sutton Coldfield, offering up to 13 buses per hour along Jockey Road. Pupils can use any of these services to travel to Sutton Coldfield, where they can change to the X4 or 71 for onward travel to school. The 77B and 77S will operate in addition and provide direct links between New Oscott, Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield and the school sites. The number of direct buses to school from New Oscott will be increased from 1 to 2.

National Express have commented that 'whilst the cost of providing transport to schools is extremely high, we have been able to offer this solution by making changes to the existing 855, advancing that service to start at New Oscott and providing extra capacity for the pupils of John Willmott and Fairfax. We hope that this change will be of benefit to your pupils and welcome any further feedback'.

Dates to note:

- **Monday 18 December:** Assessment Week (Y7 to Y11) school finishes at **2:30pm each day**. The 813, 814, 815 and 77S school buses will be available
- **Wednesday 20 December:** Christmas Dinner will be available and for this day only at a cost of £2.37, students may wear Christmas accessories with their full/normal school uniform
- **Thursday 21 December:** Last day of the Autumn Term. **Please note that school will end at 2:30pm on Thursday 21 December**
- **Monday 8 January 2024: Teacher Training Day**
- **Tuesday 9 January 2024: Students should arrive on the playground for 9:15am**
- **Thursday 18 January 2024: Year 11 Parents Evening 3:30-6:00pm**

Finally, I want to thank each of you. The support and challenge you provide is hugely appreciated. You are interested in the education we are providing. We wish you a relaxing holiday. We look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Tuesday 9 January at 9:15am. Have a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Homework and Revision - SENECA Learning App



We have invested in the SENeca Learning App for all students. This is an online platform with a wealth of high-quality resources for all key stages and subjects to support students with their learning. An email has gone to parents/carers with details for how to view the tasks set for students. This is a great way for students to make effective use of the school iPads. Please talk to your child about their use of this app for their learning.

Launching Kerboodle for students in Years 10 & 11

We are excited to announce the latest addition to our online educational resources – comprehensive online textbooks for GCSE Geography and History. Students can access these resources online to deepen learning taking place in the classroom and as a revision tool. These resources are free and available to all Year 10 and 11 students and login information will be shared shortly.

Year 11 Parents Evening – Thursday 18 January 2024

This will be a face to face appointment in school and will be a fantastic opportunity to discuss your child's progress following the assessment weeks. Appointments will be going out via schoolcloud, a text message will be sent to inform you of when the appointments are live for booking.

Consultation on admission arrangements

Every 7 years each school is required to consult on their admissions arrangements. We have entered into a period of consultation that runs from Monday 20 November 2023 to Monday 8 January 2024. Our proposed admission arrangements are published on the Birmingham City Council school Admissions website [here](#). You can comment on the Birmingham BeHeard website using this link [here](#).

Extra-Curricular activities

We have a wide range of extra-curricular activities available, providing breakfast, lunch and after school clubs to engage students. Along with these activities, we offer trips, both day trips and residential trips across the year groups to enhance cultural experiences and engage student's minds wider than the national curriculum programme. Take a look at the [extra-curricular timetable](#) and encourage your child to attend. We are always open to new ideas and activities, if your child has an interest and would like to see if we can offer it in school, please speak to Mr Grove.

Careers

On site we have a careers advisor who will support current Year 11 students with their destinations post 16. If you have any specific questions please do email Yvonne.green@jws.bham.sch.uk.

Year 7 to 10 - Unifrog

Students have received a launch to access Unifrog and will be using this in their Character Development Lessons.

Work Experience

Can you help provide work experience placements?

Do you or a family member own a business that could offer one of our Year 10 students a work experience placement? We are looking for support in securing placements for our Year 10 students from Monday 20 May to Friday 24 May 2024. We hope that this becomes an integral part of our Careers Education moving forward.

PE Lessons – Winter Months

A reminder notice: with the colder months, can we kindly remind parents that students are permitted to wear the following items to keep them warm during PE lessons:

Compulsory items: Sport shirt (Black school sport t-shirt) and long-sleeved school zip top (Black)

Non-Compulsory items: Tracksuit bottoms or plain-black sport leggings

Additional optional items: Black gloves and black base layer

iPad Devices

We have begun giving the iPad devices to students who were absent for the first roll-out. All students have been asked to join their Year groups on Showbie using the following class codes:

Year 7:	6JACP	Year 10:	J3CPH
Year 8:	9HKNM	Year 11:	3BUAA
Year 9:	CDFRF		

Please view [here](#) the behaviour expectations for all students with an iPad and consequences for misuse of an iPad, that is aligned to our Praise and Behaviour Policy.

Free School Meals

[Apply online](#) In light of the current circumstances, it is possible that family financial situations may have changed and that your child may be eligible for free school meals and we strongly recommend you apply if you believe you may be eligible. It is quick and easy to find out if your child is eligible for Free School Meals by applying through the online checking service which will instantly advise you if your child is eligible. Your details are also updated automatically so there is no need for a formal review process, everything is kept up to date after your initial application. For more information [click here](#).

Trips and Visits

Please note, all information regarding trip letters will be sent out by email. Consent can be given via the link to parent pay. It is important that we have all correct and current contact information including an email address, if you have changed any of this information please update us by completing this [form](#).

School Fixtures

Students participating in school fixtures and have consented to local visits we will send a letter of communication concerning the fixture, a consent slip will not need to be returned.

My Child At School App

If you encounter any connection difficulties with the My Child At School App, please email enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk using the email title of 'My Child At School Parent App'. The school is unable to reset passwords but can send you a new link to get you connected if you get locked out of the system.



Attendance

Winter illness: We know that the cold, winter months can increase the chances of minor illnesses, coughs and colds, but it is important that students make every effort to attend each day. NHS guidance tells us that "It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat."

We want to reassure you that students feeling under the weather will be well looked after. Students with coughs and sore throats are permitted to use throat sweets throughout the day. Tissues and hand sanitizing station will also be available to prevent the spread of minor illnesses.

For detailed advice on when to keep an unwell child at home and when to send them to school, follow the link to the NHS page here - [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#)

In the rare event that your child is unable to attend school, please remember to notify us every morning of their absence, before 8:30am. You can:

Email: attendance@jws.bham.sch.uk

Telephone: 0121 378 6564

Please ensure that you clearly state your child's name, Tutor group and the reason for absence. Thank you.

If we do not receive a reason for absence, we are required to record this as unauthorised absence.

Every day spent in school makes a difference

We attend to achieve!

On average, every 19 days of school missed = one grade less progress

School opening times

Please be aware that students do not have access to the school playground or building before 8:00am. If students arrive before 8:00am, they will need to sit in main reception until they are directed through to the main hall or playground, students do not have access to any other parts of the building or site until they are escorted in by form tutors.



Virtues and Virtues Champions

Each week our Heads of Year nominate a 'Virtues Champion' - a person in their year group who has gone above and beyond to demonstrate our virtue of the week.

Vacancies

[Wrap Around Manager – The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership \(atlp.org.uk\)](#) based at Mere Green Primary School.

Thank you to our Virtues Champions for leading the way and focusing and practicing:-

	Year 7 Champion	Year 8 Champion	Year 9 Champion	Year 10 Champion	Year 11 Champion
Commitment 	Olly B	Layla H H	Daniel H	Morgan W	Sarah D
Gratitude 	CJ A	Teagan J, Hollie B and Millie	Logan S	Micah	Abbas

Safeguarding

Please [click here](#) to view some important parental safeguarding information. If you have a concern that any student is being harmed or is at risk of harm, you can contact school reception and ask for a **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**. Alternatively, or in the case of school being closed, if you are worried about the safety or welfare of a child or young person you can contact **Birmingham children's advice and support line** on **0121 303 1888**. The emergency out-of-hours number for **CASS** is **0121 675 4806**. If you are concerned, always call **999**.

The SHARP system - You can report any incidents of concern within the school or local community using the SHARP system which is located on the school website.

Safer Travel



SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING

Have you experienced anti-social behaviour on your bus journey? Report it to us.

Text 'SeeSay' to 81018 with incident details.

'Potential into Reality'

Help and support for children and adults click [here](#) to view support and guidance services.

Online safety – please see this [link](#) for advice about keeping your child safe online during the summer holiday. We also have other online safety advice that can be found on our website [here](#) and other additional useful links and support [here](#).

Or report an incident [here](#).

Winter Water Safety

As the weather gets colder, please see this [link](#) for advice about safety, especially winter water safety.

Managing Anxiety

Cherished have announced a podcast called 'Connection Counts'. It offers advice about how to connect with a child with anxiety. Cherished have collaborated with Jennifer Wyman from the organisation 'Bridge the Gap', on what anxiety looks like, how it can be displayed in the classroom, and some easy wins for supporting well. They have lots of other helpful podcasts, so please take a listen!

Here's the link to the podcast on

Apple  <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/connection-counts/id1694897376>

Spotify  <https://open.spotify.com/show/7BSiALohnG9JiZyZk2NfHb>

Mental Health Information

Please see this [link](#) where you can find other information about managing anxiety and free webinars to watch.

Early Help Partnership Sutton Coldfield

Their latest newsletter is available [here](#)



Reading Recommendation

One dead Santa. A town full of suspects. Will you discover the truth?

Christmas in Lower Lockwood, and the Fairway Players are busy rehearsing their festive pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, to raise money for the church roof appeal. But despite the season, goodwill is distinctly lacking amongst the amateur dramatics enthusiasts. Sarah-Jane is fending off threats to her new position as Chair, the fibreglass beanstalk might be full of asbestos, and a someone is intent on ruining the panto even before the curtain goes up. Will the show go on?

77B

New Oscott to Bishop Walsh School via Sutton Coldfield | Fairfax & John Willmott Schools | Falcon Lodge

Monday to Friday

from 7th January 2024

	Sch
New Oscott, Tesco	0752
Sutton Coldfield, Parade	0803
Fairfax & John Willmott Schools	0813
Falcon Lodge	0816
Wyld Green Rd, Walmley Rd.	0828
Bishop Walsh School	0830

Sch: Schooldays Only

77B

Bishop Walsh School to New Oscott via Falcon Lodge | Fairfax & John Willmott Schools | Sutton Coldfield

Monday to Friday

from 7th January 2024

	Sch
Bishop Walsh School	1525
Wyld Green Rd, Walmley Rd	1529
Falcon Lodge	1537
Fairfax & John Willmott Schools	1540
Sutton Coldfield, Parade	1552
New Oscott, Jockey Road	1608

Sch: Schooldays Only