



YEW TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Yew Tree Times

Latest News

24.04.26

yewtreeprimary.co.uk

Reducing Screen Time...

We live in a digital world and, of course, we want children to be prepared for that. However, I am sure that most will agree it is scary how quickly technology develops and it is troubling how much time children could spend on devices/be exposed to screen time.

At Yew Tree, whilst we embrace technology to support learning beyond the computing subject area, we balance our curriculum to ensure that it is practical and hands on too. For example, there is no point looking at a picture of a chicken online when our children can go directly to our farm to see/hold chickens.

We also recognise that, although it is inevitable that children will use computers in their adult lives/jobs, it is still so important that they learn how to write and develop the core foundations of learning. Therefore, we are working with our staff currently to evaluate and reorganise our use of technology (especially in the lower year groups) so that it is available when it is useful but so that children do not spend disproportionate amounts of time in front of a screen whilst at school.

We are looking at research, from countries around the world, about reducing screen time for children. We would also urge parents/carers to think about this too. In line with DfE guidance for parents/carers [HERE](#), think about giving children time limits on devices rather than free access to this at home.

Mr Jamie Barry



Our attendance TARGET is 96%.

"Be in to win...!"

We had a great start to the summer term with attendance.

Our attendance, for the year to date, is currently:

95.2%

Please help us build on this by ensuring children attend, on time, every day throughout the whole of the summer term.

SCHOOL GRID

We would like to stress the importance of parents/carers booking school meals each day using the School Grid site which is available [HERE](#).

As all food is cooked to order your child will not be given their choice, regardless of whether the meal is free or paid, without a pre-order being made. On certain occasions, we may not be able to provide an alternative at all and you could be asked to provide food.

Remember, you can pre-book food for the term in advance but any orders must be made by 8.40am on the day the meal is to be taken. You must also ensure you cancel any meals, if your child is absent, to ensure you are not charged.

Finally, please ensure that your child's dietary requirements and allergy information is up-to-date on School Grid at all times.

TERM DATES 26/27

Our term and INSET dates for 26/27 have been set and are available [HERE](#).

As a reminder for families, when booking holidays, we are sending home postcard versions of these today (to one per family for children in YR – Y5). We have tried to group INSET days together (e.g. in July) to help reduce holiday costs for parents/carers.

BANK HOLIDAY

Don't forget that we have a Bank Holiday coming up on:

MONDAY 4th MAY

This means that school will be closed on that day and everyone will enjoy a long weekend. Please, however, ensure children attend on the Friday before so they don't miss out.

RHE CONSULTATION

Ahead of its implementation in September, there is still time to respond to the consultation about our updated [Relationships & Health Education \(RHE\) curriculum](#).

If you have any views, comments or questions then don't forget to respond to the consultation [HERE](#) by:

9.00am on WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL.

CHIT CHAT

Ms Melia is looking forward to welcoming lots of you to our Chit Chat session, for this half term, at **9.00am** this morning.

Chit Chat sessions take place in our Rainbow Room and are an informal opportunity, for a coffee and a catch up, to discuss all things Yew Tree. We hope you can make it this morning.

SCHOOL DIARY

Don't forget that our website has a school calendar, which you can subscribe to, so that you don't miss any dates. You can find the calendar [HERE](#).

In addition, each year we summarise the key dates for parents/carers so that you have these in one central place. Whilst we are near the end of the year, click [HERE](#) to see the key dates.



BEST START FAMILY HUB SPOKE

At Yew Tree, we are proud to be a Best Start Family Hub Spoke.

This means we run activities and events, on behalf of Sandwell's Best Start Family Hubs, for the benefit of the community (i.e. these sessions are not just open for parents/carers from Yew Tree).

If you would like to find out more about what Sandwell Best Start Family Hubs offer then click [HERE](#).

If you are interested in finding out more about our Spoke offer then click [HERE](#).

UNIFORM REMINDERS

Information about our clothing and uniform expectations are detailed on our website [HERE](#). Please do check carefully to ensure your child wears the correct uniform to school at all times.

Our uniform does include some summer options. However, please note that any shorts worn must be 'tailored' and not simply sports shorts.

Parents/carers are also reminded that children are not allowed to wear make up (inc. nail polish) nor have extreme hairstyles. Finally, there are also limits on jewellery worn (e.g) only one pair of earrings allowed.

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
24.04.26	Chit Chat session – 9.00am	18.05.26	Acorns silver coin collection week
27.04.26	Hatching ducklings in school	20.05.26	Brass performance – 2.30pm
27.04.26	Prime VR sessions – Y4 & Y5	21.05.26	Theme Lunch: Summertime Fiesta
29.04.26	RHE consultation closes – 9.00am	21.05.26	Off-site evacuation drill - PM
29.04.26	YR class assemblies – PM	22.05.26	Attendance Shop – OPEN
30.04.26	Frank Chapman 26/27 – payment due	22.05.26	Non-uniform day - £1
30.04.26	Y2 camping experience	22.05.26	Rags to Riches collection day
04.05.26	Bank Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED	22.05.26	Y6 Drayton Manor – payments due
11.05.26	Y6 SATs week	22.05.26	Break up for HALF TERM
11.05.26	PTA meeting – 2.30pm	01.06.26	Start of SUMMER 2
15.05.26	Y6 leavers' hoodies – SHOP CLOSURES	01.06.26	Y4 MTC week