



YEW TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Yew Tree Times



03.10.25

yewtreeprimary.co.uk

Attendance Matters...

As you would expect, like any other school in the country, Yew Tree has high expectations for attendance and consistently promotes the importance of regular attendance. This is because we know, no matter how good our staff might be, we simply cannot teach your children if they do not attend.

I often hear comments such as 'a few days won't make that much difference' but, the truth is, it really does. The curriculum at school is very busy so, if children do not attend, it is very difficult/impossible for teachers to fill the gaps in children's knowledge which have been created in their absence.

I do absolutely recognise the value of holidays and I also get cross at the injustice of holiday firms increasing their prices in school holidays. However, despite this, I still have to act in line with DfE guidance which does not allow me to authorise holidays during term time. I do appreciate the honesty of families in telling us if children will be absent for this reason as honesty is always the best policy.

We appreciate the honesty but please do really consider holidays during term time due to increase in fines and/or risk of prosecution which exists in the current framework (detailed [HERE](#)). Remember, this risk is for any periods of unauthorised absence (in. lateness after registers have closed) and not just holidays.

Mr Jamie Barry



Our attendance TARGET is 96%.

"Be in to win...!"

We recognise that children sometimes pick up illnesses. However, please remember that there are occasions they can still attend school if they feel well enough.

For further information & guidance, click the NHS link below:



EDUCATIONAL VISITS (TRIPS)

Educational visits (trips) are a great asset to the curriculum. The children enjoy them and they really help bring learning to life.

However, due to the significant cost of these, they are only possible with financial contributions from families. Whilst the law states children cannot be excluded from trips for financial reasons, it is clear that school trips will have to be cancelled unless sufficient financial contributions can be collected.

At Yew Tree, we plan our trips in advance of each academic year and limit these to a maximum of one per year group (from Y1 – Y6). This is in order to minimise the amount of money we ask for.

As you can see [HERE](#), the trips are already subsidised by the school. Please do make payments, which you can do in instalments, to avoid the risk of your child's trip being cancelled.

INSPIRE SESSIONS

We are proud to host an annual INSPIRE session for every year group.

The sessions are designed for parents/carers to work with their child, during an English or Maths session, in an activity which could be continued at home.

Please note the dates of the sessions [HERE](#).

PARENTS' EVENING

It is great that so many parents/carers have booked appointments already ahead of our Parents' Evening on:

WEDNESDAY 22nd OCTOBER
from 3.30pm – 6.30pm

If you have not yet booked an appointment, please do so ASAP using the link emailed.

SCHOOL MEALS

As our school meals are cooked to order, it is vital that parents/carers complete orders on [School Grid](#) by 8.50am each morning. Of course, you can book meals in advance if it is easier than logging in daily.

Please also remember, if your child is absent, to cancel their meals to reduce food waste and ensure you are not charged. If you need any support with using School Grid, please speak to our office.

LOST PROPERTY

Our Lost Property has been overflowing already this half term. This contains a large amount of items which we cannot return to children as there are no names. Please do help us by ensuring all uniform, coats etc contain your child's name.

If you need to retrieve any lost items, please speak to your child's teacher and/or our office staff.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK

As a community school, we often look for organisations we can partner with to benefit our school and community.

We have recently formed a partnership with the Probation Service which means, from this weekend, we shall have additional support completing site maintenance tasks every Saturday.



SCHOOL NURSE SESSIONS

Sandwell School Nursing Service provides a range of services in schools to support children with their understanding of physical and mental health.

Just before half term, our children will be involved in a range of sessions including oral hygiene/germs (YR), healthy eating Y3 & Y4), emotional health (Y6).

Y2 will have cover [NSPCC PANTS](#) work and Y5 will cover puberty and changing bodies. Y5 parents/carers are invited in to find out more on **21.10.25** at **2.30pm**.

READING AT HOME

At Yew Tree, we recognise the value of family time. Therefore, we don't set excessive amounts of homework and restrict our only expectation to **READING** at home.

Please do check out the Home Learning Ladder, from our policy [HERE](#), which outlines how much time children should spend reading at home.

We really appreciate the support of parents/carers in ensuring this happens. It is also helpful to teachers if you can share any details of reading on [Boom Reader](#). If you need any help logging in, please speak to your child's teacher.

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
06.10.25	5C swimming starts (for 2 weeks)	22.10.25	YR & Y6 height & weight checks
09.10.25	Deadline for PTA Christmas card orders	22.10.25	Parents' Evening – 3.30pm – 6.30pm
10.10.25	Y6 INSPIRE session – 9.00am	23.10.25	Non-uniform day - £1 per child
14.10.25	Y2 Columbus workshops - AM	23.10.25	Attendance Shop - OPEN
17.10.25	Y4 INSPIRE session – 9.00am	23.10.25	Y5 puberty workshops
20.10.25	Y3 visit to Edmond Hall	23.10.25	Break up for HALF TERM
20.10.25	Y2 PANTS workshops	24.10.25	INSET DAY – School closed
20.10.25	YR hands & teeth workshops	03.11.25	Start of AUTUMN 2
21.10.25	Y3 & Y4 healthy eating workshops	03.11.25	PTA meeting – 2.30pm
21.10.25	Y6 emotional health workshops	06.11.25	PTA community firework night – 5.00pm
21.10.25	Y5 parents' meeting – puberty – 2.45pm	07.11.25	Deadline for Y2 residential balances