



Armley Park Primary School

9 January 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a good break and enjoyed the celebrations.

The weather this week has made it a tricky start to the new term but it has been great to see so many families make it into school safely. The weather is predicted to be very cold for the rest of the week but will hopefully get warmer at the beginning of next week. Until all the snow and ice has cleared on the school grounds, please keep to the paths so we can get everyone in and out of school safely.

Staffing news:

As you will be aware, we received the very sad news during the holidays that Miss Lynch had died. This has been a really difficult week for the staff but it has been made a little easier by the kindness shown by our whole school community. We have spoken to the children in school and given them opportunities to talk to staff if they wanted to. For the next few weeks, we have arranged for someone to cover the classes where Miss Lynch was teaching and we will keep you updated on any more permanent decisions for the future.

Before the holidays, we recruited a new member of staff to join our Nursery team due to the increase in numbers. Miss Asadi has started this week and will be working alongside Mrs Wallace and Mrs Billbrough with our youngest children in school.

PE Kits:

Earlier this year, we changed our systems and asked for children to come into school in their PE kits on the day when they had PE lessons. The PE kit is very simple and has been designed to be the most cost-effective way and to prevent you from having to spend lots of money as nothing is branded or has logos on. If you are unsure what your child should wear, please speak to the class teacher.



Class	PE Day (Spring Term)
Year 1	Thursdays
Year 2	Mondays
Year 3	Fridays
Year 4	Wednesdays
Year 5	Wednesdays
Year 6	Mondays

Attendance:

We are really pleased that the attendance of the majority of pupils is really good but there are some children missing too much learning due to being absent or regularly arriving late. If your child's attendance is less than 90%, this is classed by the Government as Persistently Absent and may result in you being asked to attend meetings to plan how to improve this. You can check your child's current attendance on Arbor.

Remember – school starts at 8:40 and there is learning available in the classrooms from then. If the children are late, they miss out on important opportunities to improve their learning.

Arbor:

Over 70% of families have logged into your child's Arbor account, thank you for doing this. Arbor is the system we use to record information about everyone in school such as home addresses, phone numbers, languages spoken at home etc and it will now also be used as a way to make payments. The previous system (School Money) is no longer live so please do not make further payments on there. The office staff have worked tirelessly to get all the new systems in place but there are still some minor issues which we are working through. Thank you for your patience with this, especially around booking places in After School Club.

If you have not yet set up your Arbor account, or you are struggling to use it, please contact the school office and they can help you.

Visits and Visitors:

We have lots of exciting things planned over the next few months to enrich the curriculum we teach in school. To help us to make plans for the visits out of school, please make sure you complete the permission forms we send you as soon as possible. We have designed the forms to make them as quick and simple as possible for you to complete but we do need them completed before your child can attend the trips.

If we ask for any money towards the costs of the trip, this is because there is a charge for us to pay. We will always try to make any trips as affordable as possible but we unfortunately do not have the money in our school budget to make all trips free. Our new school minibuses will really help to keep the costs low as we won't need to hire coaches. If you are asked to pay towards a trip and you are struggling to do so, please contact the school office so we can arrange to split the cost across a few weeks.

Thank you for your support during a really difficult first week back and on behalf of all the staff at Armley Park Primary, we wish you a very happy new year.



Emily Caine
Headteacher