



Well done to our gymnasts who represented the school and special mention to Isabella B and LillieC who won medals for their routine at a local competition last week.

PSFA Christmas Events

Thank you to all of our families who have supported our PSFA fundraising events this term. Together we have raised an amazing **£951.07** from the Chocolate Tombola, Christmas Raffle and Christmas Bingo.

A huge thank you to our dedicated PSFA members. This term we have welcomed some new parents who have helped with organising the different events alongside our longstanding members. If you want to get involved in any future events, please attend meetings with your child so you can share ideas and help.



Chocolates Tombola raised **£252**



Christmas Raffle raised **£337**



Christmas Bingo raised **£362.07**

Fundraising Thank You



On **Christmas Jumper Day** last week, we raised £60 which will be split between the **Save the Children** and **NSPCC**.



It was great to see so many parents attend the **Reception 'Come and See How we Learn'** session.

Scarlet Fever and Strep A (iGAS)

The Group A strep bacteria is a common bacteria found in the throat that can cause a range of illnesses, including tonsillitis, scarlet fever and some skin infections.

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious and requires antibiotic treatment to prevent further spread and complications. This year, there have been higher rates of scarlet fever, both regionally and nationally. The same pattern continues to be seen with cases of invasive group A streptococcus (iGAS) particularly in children under 10 years. iGAS is a far less common infection caused by the same bacteria as scarlet fever, but can lead to more serious illness if not treated.

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

- Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by Streptococcus pyogenes, or group A streptococcus (GAS). It is not usually serious, but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications (such as pneumonia) and spread to others.
- The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting.
- After 12 to 48 hours, the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. (The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present.)
- Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'.
- As the child improves, peeling of the skin can occur.

If you think you, or your child, might have scarlet fever:

- contact your GP or NHS 111 as soon as possible
- make sure that you or your child take(s) the full course of any antibiotics prescribed. Although you or your child will feel better soon after starting the course of antibiotics, you must complete the course to ensure that you do not carry the bacteria in your throat after you have recovered
- stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection

You can help stop the spread of infection through frequent hand washing and by not sharing eating utensils, clothes, bedding and towels. All contaminated tissues should be disposed of immediately.

Children and adults with scarlet fever **should not attend** nursery / school / work until 24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment for scarlet fever.

Whilst scarlet fever is circulating, it is especially important that any children and adults with **chickenpox** do **stay off** nursery or school until all their blisters have dried over, which is at least 5 days after they first appeared.

In school, we are taking the following steps to reduce the risk of infection:


- Encouraging 'Catch-it, Bin-it, Kill-it' with children reminded to cough or sneeze into elbows and not hands
- Regular hand washing / sanitising and cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
- Using CO2 monitors in classrooms to monitor air quality and 'purging' the room when needed
- Windows kept open to ensure good ventilation – children may need to wear vests under their polo-shirts
- Keeping doors open to reduce contact and also to improve ventilation
- Early identification and sending home of unwell children who display symptoms
- Ensuring any cuts or scrapes are thoroughly cleaned and covered with waterproof dressings to help prevent invasive infection

What is Strep A?


- A type of **bacteria** sometimes found in the throat or on the skin
- **Very rare** but can cause **severe/life-threatening** illness and be **contagious**
- Treatable with **antibiotics**


What are the symptoms?

Most healthy people remain **symptom free**

Throat infection 

Scarlet fever (high temperature, sore throat, swollen neck glands, rash)

Skin infections 

Sunburn-type rash that can feel like sandpaper 

Seek medical help if you think you are showing symptoms

Source: NHS

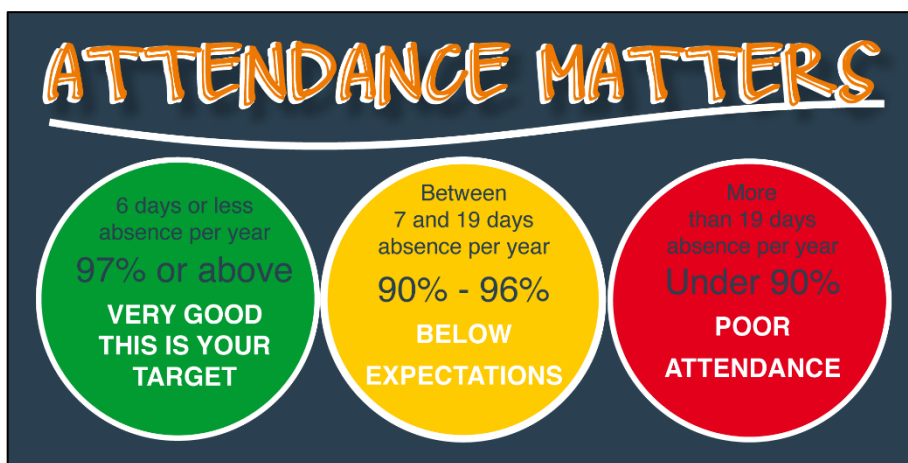
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Attendance and Punctuality

We recognise that attending school regularly, and on time, has a positive impact on learning, progress and therefore the best life chances for our children. Our minimum attendance for all children is at least 97% across the academic school year. Recent seasonal illnesses have impacted our whole-school attendance which is below our 97% target and is currently 96%.

Well done to Reception and Year 5 who have the highest attendance in the school. Attendance levels in Year 3 and Year 6 are a concern.

- Reception 97%
- Year 1 96%
- Year 2 96%
- Year 3 94.6%
- Year 4 96.5%
- Year 5 97%
- Year 6 94.9%



When a child's attendance is a concern, we always aim to work with families to provide support and ensure that any improvements are sustained. If families have any concerns about their child's attendance and lateness, they should speak to their class teacher or myself as soon as possible before issues escalate.

When attendance falls below 96%, additional strategies are used which may include:

- Illness only being authorised once I have received sufficient medical evidence – if not provided then the absence is recorded as unauthorised.
- Daily home visits by myself when a child is absent who is a concern.
- Attendance & Punctuality Plans being implemented between families and school following a meeting with myself or Mrs Boswell / Mrs Taylor if being supported through early help.

I am currently writing to families about attendance concerns and requesting meetings either before we finish before Christmas or during the first week back in January. The purpose of the meetings will be to discuss the reasons for the repeated absences and identify support.

I am pleased to say that punctuality has really improved this year with just nine families arriving late to school more than two times since September. Sadly, repeated lateness really does significantly impact on learning, not just of the child who is late, but also those in the class as the lesson is disturbed. In total, 1,479 minutes have been lost in learning time due to lateness this term which equates to 24 hours and 6 minutes!

Please can I remind families that doors open at 8:20am and close at 8:25am. Children should be ready to enter their corridor door, or classroom door for Reception, at 8:20am. Older children who walk to school without an adult, should only be arriving at 8:20am as they are not supervised by school staff and remain the responsibility of parents until they enter the school building.

Dates for your diary

Mon 19/12	Reception & KS1 Nativity Performance @ 1:30pm
Tues 20/12	Reception & KS1 Nativity Performance @ 1:30pm
Wed 21/12	School closes for Christmas
Mon 09/01	School reopens after the Christmas break
Mon 16/01	Extra-curricular clubs start for the spring term – details to follow
Thurs 12/01	PCSO Will visiting Reception class – people who help us learning



**DATES FOR
YOUR DIARY**



As Theologists, Y1 visited St Peter's Church to learn about why Christmas is a special time for Christians. They listened to the Nativity Story, looked at the nativity and talked about how the different characters welcomed baby Jesus. They also visited Heysham Library to enjoy stories with Lucy the Librarian.



Spring term 2023 extra-curricular clubs

Please make sure that your School Spider app is working so that you can sign your child up to the new clubs which we will be advertising before we finish for Christmas. We have bought in **Morecambe Community Football** coaches to run a girls' KS2 football club next term following a request by Etta (Y6). Once again, we have tried to provide a balance between KS1 and KS2 clubs covering a range of sports and interests.

Co-op Local Community Fund

Please remember to download and use the Co-op app when shopping in any Co-op store as we earn money towards our guaranteed £1000 for every £1 you spend. We have until 23/10/2023 to raise as much as possible so please spend, spend, spend!

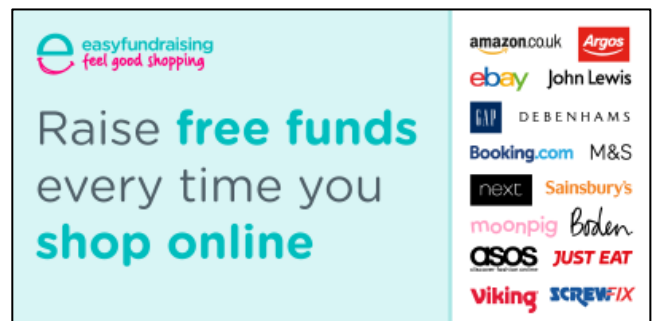


1. **Become a Co-op member** if you are not already – there is a £1 one-off fee to join which gives you exclusive member rewards and discounts. To sign up, either download the app or visit: https://www.coop.co.uk/membership?_ga=2.119614926.736751448.1511190259-1548305279.1511190259
2. Select us as your cause, either by searching on the website or app or by following this link: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/68154>
3. Once you have completed these two steps, 1p for every £1 you spend on Co-op goods and services will be donated to school.

Easy Fundraising

Don't forget we are registered with Easyfundraising, which means over 4,000 shops and sites (including Amazon, Asda and Morrisons) will now donate to us for free every time you use Easyfundraising to shop with them. Please sign up to support us – it's completely free and doesn't take long.

1. Join for free by following this link and selecting Mossgate Primary School as your cause: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/>
2. Shop as normal, just start your shopping journey first at [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), or download the mobile App or browser extension, 'Donation Reminder', which reminds you when a donation is available.
3. Once you make a purchase, Easyfundraising will make a free donation to school.



My final newsletter of 2022 will be sent out next week. If you have questions about any of the information in this newsletter, please contact me through the school office. Regards, Mr Smith