



# January 2024 NEWSLETTER

## SAF NEWS

Safe

Respect

Pride

Brave

Success



## 'Belonging, Being, Becoming'

Dear families and friends,

Wow! January has just flown by and there is only 7 days left until half term! We have had an action-packed January and the children have worked so hard. We started the year by focusing on New Years Resolutions and how if we support each other we will manage to stick to the changes we want to make. The changes that we have decided to make link very well with our school value of the month – Kindness. We are going to be kind to everyone and everything within our school.








The team have been asked to nominate children that they believe have shown kindness during this month and they received a certificate in assembly and a great big thankyou for promoting kindness!



# House Points...

The House Points were collected, counted and verified and here are the results for the first week of 2024!

Autumn 2023	8,988	6,643	7,714	8,491
 <b>Air</b> 	<b>Air</b>	<b>Earth</b> 	<b>Water</b> 	<b>Fire</b> 
<b>12.1.24</b>	330	204	316	201
<b>19.1.24</b>	203	205	486	315
<b>26.1.24</b>	123	258	541	402
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9644</b>	<b>7310</b>	<b>9057</b>	<b>9409</b>

## What's been going on?

### RockKidz

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, we had our annual visit from RockKidz who delivered workshops to the whole school on Anti-Bullying and Relationships. The children were fully engaged, excited and thrilled to be able to dress as Rockstars and sing and jump around the hall alongside listening to the key messages delivered. It was amazing. The teacher 'v' children battles were great but really difficult for the teachers!

A huge well done to Miss Brown who won the whole school rockstar battle 😊

### Year 5 Mosque Visit

Mrs Lane's class were lucky enough to visit Telford Central Mosque on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. This trip supported our understanding of our recent RE topic, when the children were learning about 'How and why do Muslims and Jews pray?'. They thoroughly enjoyed learning more about Muslim beliefs and visiting a real mosque. A big thank you to 'Telford Central Mosque' for their hospitality and their invaluable knowledge that they were happy to share.

## Year 4 - Making Torches

The children have been studying circuits and electricity in Science and designing and making torches in Design Technology. The children had two design briefs and had to create their torch for that person (either a cave explorer or a criminal catcher) Here are some of the comments from the children:

**Euan** – I enjoyed making the circuit and then putting it inside the bottle to make a real-life torch.

**Sienna** – I love that we learnt to make a torch from all different materials. I enjoyed making the switch the most as I wasn't expecting it to make it work!

**Bobby** – I enjoyed making the torch. It was fun getting to cut the bottle open and learn new things.

**Aaliyah** – I liked drawing all the little details on the torch.



## Year 1 - Judaism Assembly

The Year 1 class performed their class assembly to the whole school and some parents last Friday and they were able to explain to everyone listening what they have learnt about Judaism. It was lovely to hear them explain that Christian and Jewish believers both share the same creation story and that it can be found in Genesis Chapter 1. The children shared the creation story and that in the Jewish faith they have their own day of rest. This is known as Shabbat.

The children proudly explained what they had been learning. Well done everyone!

## Year 2 - Buildwas Abbey

The Year 2 children have visited Buildwas Abbey over the last two days to look at an Abbey. It would be so easy to show them a picture on the screen but with the minibis they were able to go and visit a real one for free! They could see it, draw it and even touch it! What a wonderful morning they all had.

## Nursery - C is for Community

We plan our EYFS curriculum using 'big' ideas. We have progressed from thinking about our unique selves to how we are part of a community.

This ensures learning is meaningful, drawing on children's personal experiences and extending their knowledge through a range of new ones.

Today the children had a memorable visit from the Police and Community Support Officers. They have been studying the role of a police officer and the equipment they use through books, poems and songs. Children were able to compare Police Officer Dominik's uniform from Life Savers to Police Officer Sam's. The children applied using vocabulary such as, "radio, helmet, handcuffs, siren, protect" while also learning new words such as, "custody, baton" and, "shield." They learnt about different ways the police travel and how they help others. This knowledge will be very useful when we apply it to acting in our Police Station role-play area.

This topic about community also allows us to develop children's understanding of place which supports their geographical understanding as they move through the school. Watch out for our religious education learning too as we have the Imam to visit in the next few weeks . . .



# Changes for February...

## No more toast...

Sadly, after half-term, we will no longer be selling toast at breaktime. We have made this decision based on several reasons. Due to the increase in food prices and electric prices we would need to increase the price of toast to 25p a slice to make sure we are covering costs. We do not think that this would be fair to you.

With changes to the food standards, we would only be able to serve brown wholemeal bread and most children do not like this which would mean wasted food.

Our children in EYFS and KS1 already receive fruit everyday which is provided to schools for free through a Government scheme.

Children in **KS2** will be encouraged to bring in a piece of fruit or a healthy snack to be eaten at breaktime. This can include, fruit, vegetable sticks, rice cakes, popcorn, raisins. Unhealthy snacks such as crisps or chocolate bars will not be allowed at breaktime.

Following advice from a visiting dentist, we would encourage children to have only water in their water bottles as the sugar in the juice can have a detrimental impact on their teeth.

## Allergies

If your child has any **allergies** that have been diagnosed by a doctor then please let school know ASAP.

## Late pick-ups...

We understand how busy life can be and we all run a bit late every now and again, however if you are persistently more than 10 minutes late to collect your child from their class at the end of the day then we will need to pop them into After-School Club which will come at a cost to you.

This also applies if you are late to collect your child from their Nursery session.

Teachers are extremely busy and have lots to do after 3.10pm.

# Attendance Matters...

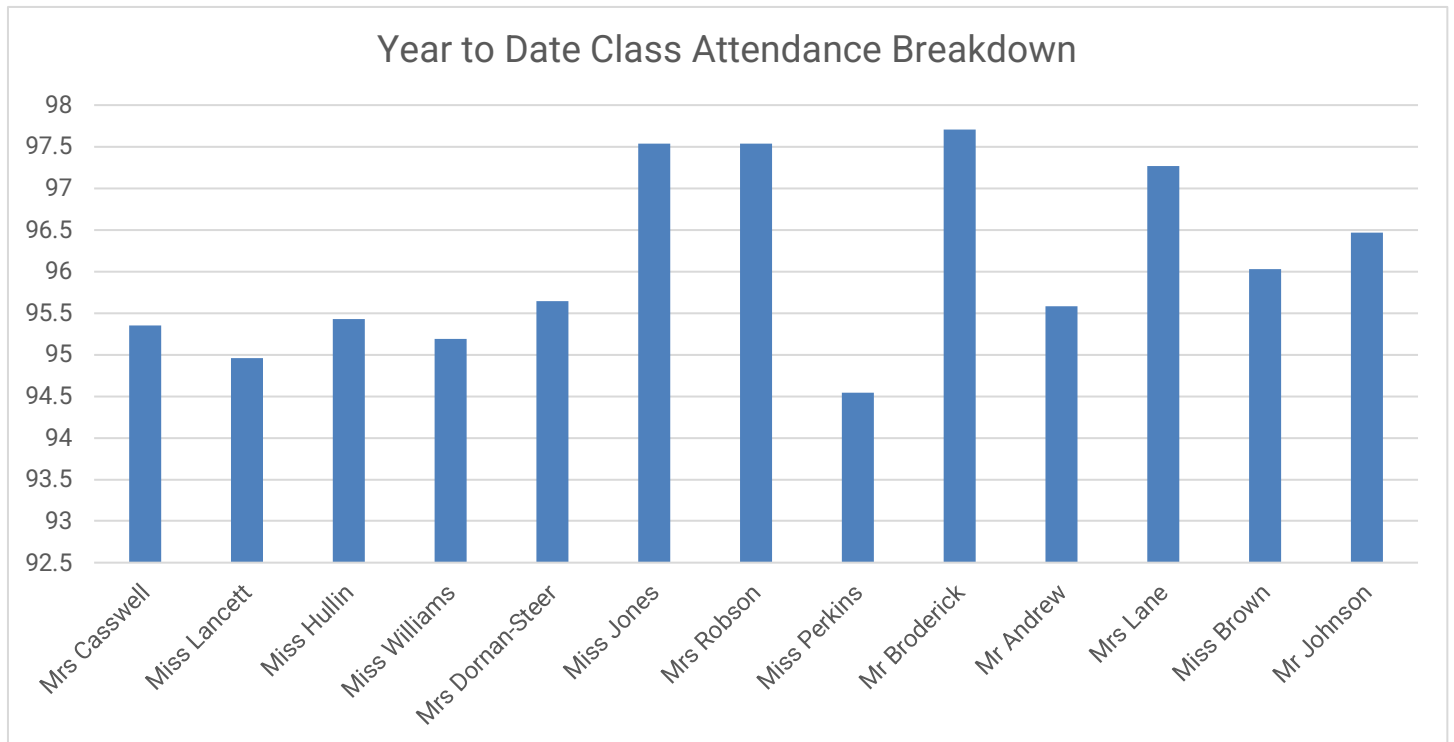
Our attendance target is: **96%**

Our overall attendance for **January** has been:

Week Commencing	%
8.1.24	<b>98.02%</b>
15.1.24	<b>93.51%</b>
22.1.24	<b>93.83%</b>

Our Year-to-Date attendance is: **95.90%**

## Attendance % per class



## Attendance is everyone's responsibility!

It is our school's policy that we visit all families that are absent for 3 days whether contact has been made with school or not! This is so we can complete a safe and well check and to see if there is anyway we can support you. We will always come out so please do not be offended. We miss our children when they are not here!

# A Parent's Guide to Attendance

These are the attendance expectations for parents of Sir Alexander Fleming Nursery and Primary School. It will explain what we classify as an authorised or unauthorised absence and explain our monitoring processes. All schools are required by law to keep attendance registers for morning and afternoon sessions.

Absences must either be marked as **Authorised** or **Unauthorised**.

Only the school can approve the reason for the absence.

At SAF our aim is for all our children to have attendance above **96%**

## What is an **authorised** absence?

- **If your child is ill and you have contacted the school before 9.10am**
- **If your child is attending a medical appointment and school have seen evidence.**
- **Religious observance**

## What is an **unauthorised** absence?

- **If the parent has received a SAL 2 letter and need to provide evidence of illness and are unable to do this.**
- **Your child not attending school due to birthday celebrations, visiting family, friends, going shopping or having their hair cut.**
- **Your child taking a full day off school for medical/dental appointments**
- **Your child arriving to school after 9.10am**
- **Your child being absent with an ailment that school would expect them to attend with (headaches, cold, treated after headlice)**
- **Your child taking a holiday during term time that has not been authorised by the headteacher**
- **Your child missing school due to a medical/dental appointment for a parent/sibling.**

## Punctuality

**It is a parent's responsibility to ensure their children arrive at school on time.**

School has a clear procedure for the '**start of the school day**'. The doors open at **8.30am**. We expect children to be waiting ready to enter their class at 8.30am. The class doors close promptly at **8.40am** and the site manager locks the gates. Children arriving after **8.40am** have to enter school from school reception and receive a Late Mark.

## Lateness

Children who are not in the classroom at 8.40am, ready to start the school day are late. They will be recorded as late on the class register.

Children who arrive after **9.10am** will receive an **unauthorised absence mark** for the morning session as the morning registers have closed.

All students arriving late must enter school via the school reception where parents must sign their child into school with an explanation of why they are late.

### Late arrival at school may result in:

- Your child feeling stressed or anxious
- Your child learning less and achieving poorer outcomes
- Your child disrupting the learning of others
- Parents receiving a fine if children arrive after 9.10am on a regular basis

## Illness

If your child is too unwell to attend, school **must** be notified by 9.10am. Parents **must** report all absences to the school office via email or by leaving a voice message on **01952 327820**. We ask that parents **do not** give absence messages to teacher or school staff via Seesaw.

Where an illness lasts longer than one day, we ask parents to inform us daily of their child's absence.

If school recognises a pattern of absence, we will contact parents to see if any support is needed and in some cases we will ask for medical evidence that the child has been seen by a GP.

## Medical/Dental appointments

We ask that wherever possible all appointments are made outside of the school day. Where this is not possible children should only be absent from school for their appointment and not all day.

For morning appointments, we request that your child attends school in the morning to receive their registration mark at 8.30am and then leaves for their appointment. For afternoon appointments during school hours, we ask that your child receives their registration mark at 1.00pm and then leaves for their appointment.

Appointments will only be **authorised where evidence of the appointment** has been seen at the school office.

**Without them it will be recorded as unauthorised.**

## Leave of absence

Leave of absence in term time can only be authorised by the Head Teacher in exceptional circumstances.

All requests will only be considered if parents have completed a Leave in Absence form. This is obtained from the school office. The Head Teacher who will consider each request on an individual basis.





# Upcoming Events...

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	School resumes @ 8.30am
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	RockKidz – Anti-bullying Workshops – children can come dressed as a ‘Rock Star’ from YR to Y6 
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	National Handwriting Day
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Year 1 Miss Hullin’s Class Assembly – Year 1 parents invited</b>
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	National Storytelling Week
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Internet Safety Day
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Chinese New Year
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	School breaks up for <b>HALF TERM @ 3.10pm</b>
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Children return for Spring term 2
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Year R Class Assembly - Year R parents invited to attend</b>
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	National Women in History month
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 France Visit – Chateau Beaumont
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Ghanaian Independence Day – planned week in school
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day – theme to be announced
8 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week – Parent Science afternoons - TBC
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Mufti Day - in exchange for an Easter Egg
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Mother’s Day breakfast in hall 8.30 – 9.30am – with the children
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Bonnets can come into school for the parade on the last day Easter egg raffle tickets are on sale.
WB: Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Pupil Progress Consultations – 8.30am – 4.00pm Specific dates / times to be arranged
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Nursery Class Assembly – am / pm Nursery parents invited to attend</b>
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day / Comic Relief – TBC
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Easter egg raffle draw / Easter bonnet parade
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	End of term @ <b>1pm</b>

Thank you for being a wonderful support to our school – we are only as good as the children and families in our community – YOU ARE AMAZING!

See you soon,  
Katy Tomlinson