



School Newsletter

30th November 2022

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Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to all those of you who have contributed money to our Hogwarts Week. We have spent quite a bit of money on this themed week and really do appreciate your donations. Staff and children are really looking forward to a fun filled, action packed week. What a way to end the term! Due to the royal mail strikes we have made arrangements with Owl Post to deliver your child's necessary documents and invitations for their enrolment at Hogwarts, which is the week commencing 12th December. Please look out for this on Friday after school.

Just a little reminder about school attendance. I think some of you might think that each school and therefore Headteacher can make up their own rules about attendance and punctuality. This is far from correct as we are given directives by the Department for Education and Lancashire County Council. The DfE have published guidance [Working together to improve school attendance](#) which is the document most schools use and which our own school attendance policy is based upon.

At Sabden we set our standards for attendance high and aim each year for a 97% attendance rate for the year. In a nutshell:

100% - outstanding. Excellent.

97% + attendance is great. Well done!

96.9% – 95% attendance is okay but could be a little better

94.9% – 90.1% attendance is of some concern. Children with this attendance rate are regularly monitored.

90% and below attendance is considered Persistent Absenteeism and is of great concern. The school has to record such children and ensure that parents understand their accountability for their child's attendance. Children and families will require support and intervention to address weaker attendance. If this cannot be improved by school and home working together then outside agencies will be brought in to help. Parents should not be surprised or offended when school seeks outside help to improve their child's attendance.

Whilst Headteachers do not make up the main rules regarding attendance it is within their discretion to either authorise or unauthorise absences. Genuine illness and absence will of course be authorised but if the child is seen playing out or we try to ring and get an international dialling ring, then obviously not. Unfortunately, sometimes children are asked to fib about absences but this can put a strain on the relationship between school and your child, so we respectfully ask you not to do this.

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On Friday 2nd December we are excited that the children will be watching The Clockmakers Christmas theatre production in the school hall. This will start the Christmassy feelings for sure.

I hope you are all able to make it to our condensed Christmas Fair next Tuesday (6th December). Doors open at 3.30pm and close again at 4.30pm – just enough time to spend some money, catch up with the gossip and have a brew.

General Housekeeping:

Please can we ask again that payments are made in advance. School meals should be paid for the week before, the weekly charge for school meals is £12.00 and this should be paid before the meals are taken. If arrears accrue your child will be asked to go onto packed lunches until the money is paid.



Please ensure you have this app and that you keep your child's information up to date. If you have not accepted the invitation originally sent to you then this will have expired. Please email the office who can arrange for a new invitation to be sent to you.

An additional Bank Holiday in England has been awarded to celebrate King Charles III's Coronation. This is Monday 8th May 2023. Please add it to the holiday list.

When emailing school, please can we ask that you send the email to both of the following email addresses:

bursar@sabden.lancs.sch.uk

office@sabden.lancs.sch.uk

This will ensure that your email is received in the event of only one person being in the office. Many thanks.

There are a few amendments to the school dinner menu as follows:

Week One, Wednesdays Roast Chicken has been replaced with Roast Beef

Week Three, Monday Bubble Salmon has been replaced with Battered Fish

Week Three, Thursday extra choice baked potato has been replaced with sandwiches.

Next week the madness of Christmas starts, whatever happened to November!

Don't forget to look at the What's On December 2022, which is on the website under newsletters. This will help you to keep up to date with events happening in school. The only amendment is the Christmas Fair changed from 25th November to 6th December.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Elizabeth Maskell