



Newsletter 2 – 8th September 2025

Knowledge begins with respect for God (Proverbs 1:7)

This half-term's value is 'Thankfulness' (Colossians 2:7)

Attendance: important information

It is well documented that poor attendance can have a serious impact on children's learning and progress. Any child with poor attendance is at a real disadvantage and it can take a very long time to make up this lost learning time – some children's learning never fully recovers which can have serious consequences on their future life chances. For children to make the best possible progress, it is vital that their attendance is the best it can possibly be. I would like to remind you of the following:

- Parents/carers do not have a legal right to take their child out of school for holidays in term time. Schools are expected to refuse requests for absence during term time unless there are explicit exceptional circumstances.
- Requests for extended leave to attend family weddings or to see ill relatives are *not* deemed to be exceptional circumstances. The availability of cheap flights or holidays is also *not* deemed to be an exceptional circumstance.

Our school attendance policy has clear thresholds for different actions to take place – see below. We provide parents with information regarding their child's attendance at the end of each term.

Stage	Thresholds	Actions to be taken
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 days of absence (6 sessions) • Continued late arrivals despite initial text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text message issued. Parents/<u>carers</u> invited to discuss any concerns if they wish to do so. • Late letter issued
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 days of absence (12 sessions) • Continued late arrivals despite initial text • Continued unexplained or unauthorised absences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second late warning letter issued • Parents requested to attend a meeting in school to discuss attendance with the Headteacher
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 days of absence (20 sessions) • Strategies introduced previously have failed to improve attendance • Continued late arrivals despite support offered previously • Continued unexplained or <u>unauthorised</u> absences despite support offered at previous thresholds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third warning letter issued and further meeting will be held with the Headteacher to discuss the creation of a parenting contract. • A parenting contract includes a statement by parents/<u>carers</u> that they agree to comply for a specified period with whatever requirements are set out in the contract; • It also includes a statement by the school/local authority/agreeing to provide support to the parents for the purpose of complying with the contract.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 days of absence (30 sessions) • Parenting contract has been breached and attendance has not improved. • Any of the thresholds for legal action have been met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School will refer the case to the Local Authority. • The Local Authority will <u>utilise</u> appropriate legal powers to enforce attendance. This could include Fixed Penalty Notices, charged at £160 per parent if paid within 28 days. This is reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

End Digital Poverty Day – Friday 12th September 2025

This is a nationwide initiative to help families to access the internet if they are unable to afford broadband costs or to buy a laptop or tablet. If this describes you, please get in touch with me and I can put you in contact with a member of staff from 6G Internet, a Blackburn company which has helped many other local families whose children attend this school.

Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) provides help for children who may be experiencing difficulties with their mental health.

If you have noticed your child is feeling frequently sad, worried or anxious and feel they may need support from the MSHT team, please speak to any member of staff at school.



Flu Vaccination

This year the NHS are again offering both a nasal flu vaccination (containing trace amounts of pork gelatine) and a flu jab (containing no pork gelatine) to all children from Reception to Year 6.

If you would like your child to receive the flu vaccine in school this year, please follow the link below to complete an online consent form. This needs to be done by Sunday 21st September. If you would like to decline, please complete a 'no' consent form on the attached link.

<https://nhslmms.azurewebsites.net/session/76ac3353>

There is also a QR code that you can use to take you to the link above. This is on the flyer attached to this newsletter.

The vaccinations will take place at school on the 29th September. If your child has already had the Flu vaccine elsewhere since September 2025, please complete a 'No' form. If you have any problems accessing the link, please telephone 0333 3583 397 option 2, option 2.

Admission to Reception for September 2026

If you have a child due to start school next September (born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022), you can now go online at www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions for information about primary schools and how to apply for a place online. The deadline to complete your application is Thursday 15th January 2026.



Admission to Secondary School for September 2026

If you have a child who has just started Year 6, it is time to decide on your choice of secondary school for September 2026. You will need to go online at www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions for information about secondary schools and how to apply for a place online. You don't have long to do this - the deadline for you to make your choices is Friday 31st October 2025. I would recommend attending some of the high school open days which will be taking place soon - check the schools' websites to find out when these are taking place.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julian Rogers'.

Julian Rogers
Headteacher

Inhalers

If your child uses an inhaler, please remember to send it in to school as soon as possible.



IntraHealth



Lancashire (inc. Blackburn & Darwen)
School Aged Immunisation Service

**Your child can be a
Real Life Superhero!
Protect your
Friends And Family
Against
FLU.**

ST MATTHEWS CofE PRIMARY AND BRUNEL NURSERY

Vaccination Date: MONDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

To complete a consent or refusal form online,

Please scan the QR code:

For any queries... Call: 0333 358 3397 Option 2, Option 2

Email: team.lancashire@intrahealth.co.uk



To find out more about the flu
vaccine, please scan the
following:

Info available in multiple languages

