

Penkridge Middle School  
Marsh Lane  
Penkridge  
ST19 5BW

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01785 413400



Ref: Pastoral Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank you for your continued support in maintaining our high standards. In school, we are incredibly proud of the way our children conduct themselves and represent PMS both inside and outside of school. We continue to work hard to encourage children to come to school ready to learn each day and ahead of the new academic year, we would like to remind you of how you can continue to support from home and get your child September ready.

### Attendance

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your relentless support of the school attendance policy [Penkridge Middle School - Attendance](#). Attendance continues to be strong across the school and we want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the overwhelming support we receive from families to ensure their child attends school regularly. Our attendance for the 2023/24 academic year has been ranked as number 1 in the Local Authority and we want to thank our families for working closely with us to ensure the learning time of every child is maximised.

As we begin to think about next academic year, you may have read or heard of changes being introduced by government to improve school attendance across the country and ensure attendance to school is valued by all. Attached to this communication I have included a copy of a letter from Staffordshire County Council to update you on the changes coming into effect for the next academic year.

Furthermore, in order to support your planning for the next school year, we have published our 2024/25 term dates [Penkridge Middle School - Term Dates](#) to allow you plenty of time to plan any travel or special arrangements within the school holidays. As you are aware, in addition to the lost learning time, any holidays taken during term time are recorded as unauthorised absences (unless exceptional circumstances) and possibly carry a fixed penalty processed by Staffordshire County Council.

As always, we will continue to enjoy work in partnership with you to ensure your child attends regularly and enjoys accessing the opportunities their education brings.

### Punctuality

As a school, we know that future success starts with good attendance and punctuality. Ahead of the new school year. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that morning registration begins at **8:45am prompt** and all children are expected to be in school before this time. This is when they receive their first legal mark of the day. **Arriving after registration has closed will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and marked with a U code.** Arriving promptly makes sure that your child does not miss work and that disruption to the teacher and other pupils is minimised. We therefore discourage children visiting the park or other places in the village prior to school as persistent lateness can lead to a significant loss in learning time and a fixed penalty notice being issued.

We teach pupils the importance of punctuality throughout the day and expect them to arrive to all timetabled lessons in a timely manner. Teachers take registers at the beginning of every lesson and it is the expectation that

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all pupils are seated and settled whilst the register takes place. If a pupil is persistently late to lesson or absent from timetabled lessons, the school will recover this time through the use of afterschool Catch-up and Repair sessions, as per our behaviour policy.

## Uniform

At Penkridge Middle School we expect all pupils to be well presented at all times. School uniform plays a critical role in promoting positive behaviour and pupil discipline. Our uniform standards are key in setting an appropriate tone for pupil conduct. It instils pride and contributes directly to the positive reputation of our school. **Our uniform also helps protect our pupils from social pressures to dress in a particular way.** All pupils are expected to follow these expectations consistently and without question when on the school site.

Your unwavering support is vital in ensuring the uniform policy is followed and high standards are maintained. Ahead of purchasing new uniform items for the new year, please refer to our school uniform policy before purchasing.

As per the policy, trainers such as Nike, adidas, Reebok, Vans and the like are not acceptable footwear for school and will not be allowed to be worn on non-PE days. Likewise, please carefully read our guidance on acceptable trousers or skirts; they should not be tight fitting and any skirts should be appropriate in length. We discourage items of high value and any item brought in to school should be labelled with your child's name.

In addition, all outside coats and jackets can be hung on a peg or stored within a school bag. Items of jewellery, beyond that of a basic watch (Like mobile phones, iWatches or similar are not required for school.) and single set of removeable ear studs. Likewise, our uniform policy states there is no reason for pupils of our age range to wear make-up and therefore make-up is not permitted. If worn, pupils will be asked to remove this.

**Our full uniform policy can be read here:**

<https://www.penkridge.staffs.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=32>

## Rewards

Finally, as the end of term approaches, we are excited to yet again recognise the many achievements of our students as part of our pastoral strategy based around our school values of effort, excellence and encouragement. We believe that recognition of student's achievements is one of the most valuable rewards available. Our well established reward programme provides students daily, weekly and termly opportunities to earn positive recognition when they demonstrate the PMS way. This supports us in providing positive reinforcement and positive feedback for students and building a school culture built on positivity. [Penkridge Middle School - Pastoral](#)

As always, we thank you unreservedly for your continued support with the above and we remain committed to continuing to work alongside you to make sure every pupil maximises their opportunity of an education.

When it arrives I wish you a wonderful summer with your families.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr R Cole**

**Deputy Headteacher**