



Comber Grove Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Spring Term 2

Friday, 10th March 2023

Quote for the week:

'Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.' - Leo Buscaglia

A message from our Headteacher

Dear Comber Grove families,

This week we have been thinking about our school value: **EMPATHY**

ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY

At Comber Grove Primary School, we place great importance on good attendance and punctuality.

We know that a child's attendance has a direct impact on their learning. Those children who are regularly absent from school and regularly late do not achieve their potential and do fall behind in class. Please support the school in this by ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives ready to learn and on time at 8:55am.

Attendance matters! It is important that your child gets to school on time and aims for 100% attendance!

Lost Learning due to Poor Attendance

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

Nationally primary pupil attendance is around **96%**. This means that a child needs to attend school for at least 183 out of 190 days (no more than 7 days absence across the whole year) to meet national expectations.

Types of Absence

Every half-day absence from school, by law, has to be classified as either **AUTHORISED** or **UNAUTHORISED**. This is why information about the cause of absence is always asked for.

Authorised Absences

These are mornings or afternoons away from school for a valid reason such as illness, emergency medical or dental appointments and emergencies. Routine appointments should always be made out of school hours!

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....



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Unauthorised Absences

An absence is classified as **Unauthorised** if the reason was not recognised as acceptable. The Department for Education (DfE) and Local Education Authorities provide information for schools as to what is acceptable and what is not.

Examples of reasons that would **not** be accepted:

- A birthday
- A shopping trip
- Day trips
- Holidays- unless have been agreed as exceptional circumstances

What to do if your child is absent from school

Contact the school office by 9am and leave a message providing a reason for the absence.

If the pupil is to be off school for more than one day then the parent/carer **must** call and leave a message on each subsequent day.

If school does not receive a notification on the morning of day one, a ScholarPack text message will be sent asking you to contact the school. If school has not received a response, then we will carry out a home visit on day two.

Promoting Attendance and Support

We believe that working together with parents is the best way to result in positive attendance outcomes for our children.

We have lots of high-profile rewards and systems in school to promote good attendance and punctuality with the children.

Certificates are awarded to those children who also achieve this termly.

We also have a weekly class attendance competition with the winning class in each phase being awarded a weekly certificate as well as a chance to have additional play.

The class with the highest attendance in KS1 and KS2 also receives our attendance trophy. Also keep an eye on our school Twitter page to see special announcement tweets when classes achieve 100% for the week.

We are happy to work with both children and families to improve attendance and punctuality. Come and talk to us if you are having problems.



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Attendance Monitoring

As attendance and punctuality is so important to us, we cannot be complacent where there are instances of unacceptable, low pupil attendance, or if pupils are regularly late to school.

Southwark Local Authority is keen that we adopt measures and involve external agencies if the level of attendance requires us to do so. Attendance is monitored half-termly and letters are sent to **all** parents where attendance is below 90%.

If there is not an improvement in attendance then you may be asked to come into school for a formal meeting to discuss the matter further.

Continued unauthorised absences could then result in a penalty notice being issued by the Education Intervention Team (EIT) and in some cases legal action being taken.

Leave in Term Time

As a school, we are no longer allowed to authorise any requests for children to be taken out of school for a holiday during term time.

We appreciate the challenges that some parents face when booking holidays, particularly during the school holidays. However, regular attendance at school is vital in helping children and young people to achieve their full potential and get the best possible start in life.

Punctuality

It is very important that all children arrive on time. School gates open at 8:45am every morning. If your child arrives after 9:00am, then they are late and they will not be able to come into school via the usual morning entrance doors but should instead come through the main school entrance. All children will need to report to the School Office where they will be accompanied to their classes. **We do not encourage parents/ carers to accompany children to their classes.**

Please note that if your children arrive at school later than 9:30am will be marked '**U**' **Late after register closed.**

If children are regularly late, a parent will be expected to attend a meeting to look at how punctuality can be improved.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and encouragement!

Have a restful weekend!

Lorram Black and Team Comber Grove

Community

Pride

Empathy

Happiness

Individuality

Creativity



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**Parent OPEN Day
Friday, 24th March 2023**

An excellent opportunity to spend time together as teachers and parents to celebrate and discuss your child's learning and development and offer you the most up to date information on your child and their learning.

WHEN?

Friday,
24th March 2023
9am to 4:30pm



Please note, this is not a normal school day and your child will need to attend their parent teacher meeting with you in order to be marked present for the day.

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Year 6 TFL Safety and Citizenship Trip



Our Year 6 pupils visited the **Old Kent Road Fire Station**.

'We learnt about fire safety and transport safety.' -Lyon

This forms part of preparing our Year children for Secondary School and by making them aware of the dangers which they could be exposed to while using public transport.

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Stars of the Week



Value of the Week: EMPATHY		
Class:	Pupil:	Reason:
Year 1 Benjamin Zephaniah	Yihan	For showing understanding to others.
	Tara	For showing understanding to others.
Year 2 David Attenborough	Julianna	For demonstrating the value of empathy.
	Mangnin	For showing empathy to his friends.
Year 3 Mo Farah	Daniella	Always showing empathy to others and being a kind and caring member of our class.
	Lyon	Always showing empathy to others and being a kind and caring member of our class.
Year 4 Marcus Rashford	Maria	For always being caring and kind to her friends.
	Bilal	For always being caring and kind to his friends.
Year 5/6 Mae Jemison	Ranya	Thank you for being helpful to your peers.
	Raiyan	Well done for being helpful to your peers.
Year 6 Olive Morris	Tianna	For trying really hard with her maths and helping others in the class with their maths.
	Lyron	For learning Spanish to help our new classmate integrate into the class!



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ATTENDANCE MATTERS
every student, every day

Attendance Winners

School Target: 95.6%	This week's attendance: 92.6%
Years R, 1, and 2	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6
<u>Well Done:</u> Aderin Pocock 97.4%	<u>Well Done:</u> Mo Farah 98.9%
Class:	Attendance:
Reception Maggie Aderin-Pocock	97.4%
Year 1 Benjamin Zephaniah	93.3%
Year 2 David Attenborough	94.1%
Year 3 Mo Farah	98.9%
Year 4 Marcus Rashford	88.3%
Year 5/6 Mae Jemison	90.4%
Year 6 Olive Morris	87.9%

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School Information and Events

 Dates for your Diary 	
Friday, 10 th March to Sunday, 19 th March 2023	British Science Week –THEME: 'Connections'
Wednesday, 15 th March 2023	Teacher Strike Action (school closed to all pupils)
Thursday, 16 th March 2023	Staffing Committee Meeting at 4pm
	Teacher Strike Action (school closed to all pupils)
Monday, 20 th March to Friday, 24 th March 2023	SCIENCE Week at Comber Grove Primary School
Thursday, 23 rd March 2023	Beginning of Ramadan
Friday, 24 th March 2023	Parent OPEN Day (more information to follow closer to the time!)
Sunday, 26 th March 2023	British Summer Time (clocks spring forward by 1 hour)
Wednesday, 29th March 2023	SPRING Fair (will be rescheduled due to Ramadaan)
Monday, 27 th March 2023	LA Progress Review Meeting
Friday, 31 st March 2023	End of Spring Term. School closing at 2pm
EASTER HOLIDAY: Monday, 3rd April to Friday, 14th April 2023	
Monday, 17 th April 2023	INSET DAY for staff (School closed to pupils) TRAUMA Training for all staff!
Tuesday, 18 th April 2023	First day after EASTER Holiday (Beginning of Summer Term 1)
Monday, 1 st May 2023	May Day Bank Holiday (School closed)
Monday, 8 th May 2023	Coronation Bank Holiday (School closed)
Tuesday, 9 th to Friday, 13 th May 2023	KS2 SATS (Time table to follow)
Half Term (School closed): Monday, 29th May 2023 to Friday, 2nd June 2023	
Monday, 5 th June 2023	INSET DAY for staff (School closed to pupils)
Tuesday, 6 th June 2023	First day after Half term (Summer Term 2)
Monday, 5 th June to Friday, 16 th June 2023	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)
Monday 12 th to Friday, 16 th June 2023	KS1 Phonics Screening Check
Monday, 12 th to Wednesday, 14 th June 2023	Year 6 Residential to Mersea (Essex Outdoors)
Friday, 21 st July 2023	Last day of Summer Term. School closing at 2pm

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TEACHER STRIKE School CLOSED Wednesday, 15th March 2023 and Thursday, 16th March 2023

Teacher Strike- Wednesday, 15th and Thursday, 16th March 2023

The country's biggest teaching union, have voted in favour of a national strike over a number of days.

Unfortunately Comber Grove Primary School will be closed to children on **Wednesday, 15th March** and **Thursday, 16th March 2023** as we will not be able to ensure the **Healthy and Safety of all our pupils.**

School will re-open as usual on Friday, 17th March 2023.

Apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused you and your families!



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After Diagnosis - Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

An Online Workshop for Parents and Carers
after your child's assessment with ARD Service

Meet other families from Lambeth and Southwark and ask your questions to the Speech and Language Therapists

Children Under 5 Years	Date	Time
	Monday 27 th February 2023	10:00 – 11:30am
	Wednesday 1 st March 2023	1:00 – 2:30pm
	Tuesday 28 th March 2023	10:00 – 11:30am

Primary Age Children (approx. 5-11 years)	Date	Time
	Monday 27 th February 2023	1:00 – 2:30pm
	Monday 13 th February 2023	10:00 – 11:30am
	Tuesday 28 th March 2023	1:00 – 2:30pm

Secondary Age Young People (12 years +)	Date	Time
	Monday 13 th February 2023	1:00 – 2:30pm
	Wednesday 1 st March 2023	10:00 – 11:30am

How to book – email your details to gst-tr.contacts@nhs.net

- include your name, your child's name / date of birth
- date you wish to attend
- add 'After diagnosis - Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder' workshop as the *subject* of your email



OR

- Scan the QR code



For any other queries related to the Autism and Related Disorders (ARD) Clinic please contact:
Lambeth (Mary Sheridan Centre): 020 3049 5964 Southwark (Sunshine House): 020 3989 0370



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Welcome to the Autism and Related Disorders (ARD) Service

Your child has been referred to the ARD Service for an assessment

Book your place onto:



'What will happen at my child's autism assessment: An online workshop for Parents and Carers'

The workshop includes information about:



- What Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is
- What will happen on the day of the assessment
- Where to look for more information about ASD

The workshops are run by the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) Team

Children Under 5 Years	Date	Time
	Wednesday 1 st February 2023	10:00 – 11:30am
Primary Age Children (approx. 5-11 years)	Date	Time
	Wednesday 1 st February 2023	1:00 – 2:30pm
	Tuesday 14 th March 2023	10:00 – 11:30am
Secondary Age Young People (12 years +)	Date	Time
	Tuesday 14 th March 2023	1:00 – 2:30pm



How to book: Please email gst-tr.contacts@nhs.net

Write 'Subject' of email as **ARD Assessment Workshop**

To: gst-tr.contacts@nhs.net
 Cc:
 Subject: ARD Assessment Workshop

Include **your name**

Your **child's name / date of birth**

To ARD team
 My name is XXX
 My child's name is XX and date of birth (DOB) is XXX

OR

➤ Scan the QR code



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Need help with another language for this letter?

You can get an interpreter here:

<https://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/patients/your-care/language-support/language-support-services.aspx>



Call 020 7188 8815



Email languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

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