

Please can all parents / carers remind themselves of the following letter from Pembrokeshire County Council regarding Penalty Notices:



Penalty Notices.

This letter alerts you to the introduction of Penalty notices for unauthorised absences from school from January 2015.

The ERW consortium believe that any absence from school, for whatever reason, is detrimental to a child's long term life opportunities, so should be avoided if at all possible. Reducing absence from school is a key priority, both nationally and locally, because missing school damages a pupil's attainment levels, disrupts school routines and can leave a pupil vulnerable to anti-social behaviour and youth crime.

A Penalty Notice is an alternative to prosecution with the aim of seeking to secure an improvement in the pupil's attendance.

A Penalty Notice can be requested by the School, Police or from within the Local Authority Education Welfare Service in relation to unauthorised non-attendance at school. If a reason for absence is provided by the parent/carer then it is up to the head-teacher to decide if they accept it and mark it appropriately. There is no limit to the number of formal warnings which can be issued

If a notice has been requested the parent/carer will receive a warning letter that gives them 15 days to provide evidence to the Local Authority that the unauthorised absences are justified and that the register should be amended. If the unauthorised absences are due to taking a holiday in school time then a warning will not be issued.

If the school attendance does not improve then the **penalty notice will be issued. Payment of £60 will be due** in the first instance which may rise to £120 if not paid promptly. If the penalty is not paid then the Local Authority (LA) will consider **issuing prosecution proceedings against parent(s)** for the original offence, which is 'failure to ensure regular attendance at school of the registered pupil' under **Section 444 (1) or (1A)** of the Education Act 1996.

Please remember that if there are reasons why your child is missing school then you can seek support and guidance from staff at your child's school. Ask before the non-attendance becomes an issue.



**Milford Haven Community
Primary School**

Newsletter October 2019

Asymmetric Week

Many thanks to you all for supporting us with making the first month of our new school days run so smoothly. The children have done well in adapting to the new timetables and are enjoying the change to structures. Staff have benefitted already from additional professional development on the Friday afternoons, where they have had opportunities to develop their learning environments, meet as year group and staff teams to plan learning opportunities and be trained on a dyslexia support programme. This Friday afternoon teachers across the Milford Haven cluster of schools are meeting to discuss how each school is developing the new curriculum for Wales.

However, with the new times there are still quite a number of pupils arriving late at school in the mornings. On the Prioryville site school now starts at 8.45am and the doors are open for all pupils from 8.35am. We do appreciate that Prioryville can get very busy in the mornings, especially in wet weather. One alternative is to park in Albion Street and walk along the footpath to school. On the Meads site school now begins for Reception classes, Years 1 and 2 at 8.50am, with class entrances open from 8.45a.m The Nursery opens at 9.00am.

We are now gathering information from you to plan the Friday afternoons for the second half of the autumn term (November and December 2019). A form has been sent home with your child for you to indicate whether they are finishing school at 12.00 (Infants) or 12.15pm (Juniors), having a lunch in school, finishing school at 12.30 (Infants) or 12.45pm (Juniors) or taking advantage of the out of hours' school activities that are currently provided on a Friday afternoon. **Please ensure that you complete this form and return it to school for each of your children by Monday**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

14 October 2019 at the latest, in order for us to be able to plan staffing requirements for after half term. Please return the form even if you do not wish your child to stay for any part of the lunch or afternoon.

Governors' Annual Report to Parents, September 2019

All families will be receiving the Governors' Annual Report to Parents next week. We hope that you will enjoy reading it!



MacMillan Coffee Morning

The school once again held two very successful coffee mornings in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. Thank you to all parents and friends of the school who supported us with your donations and your attendance at one or both sites to enjoy cake and coffee with us! We have raised £925 so far with more still to come!

Year 2 Family Assembly

A very enjoyable assembly was held by Year 2 pupils this week. They focussed on celebrating autumn and harvest. It was really good to have so many family and friends join us!

Harvest donations



We will once again be collecting donations for harvest, which from the Meads site will be donated to the Salvation Army. From the Prioryville site they will be donated to PATCH (Pembrokeshire Action to Combat Hardship). Please can all donations for the Meads site be sent to school by Thursday 17 October and can all donations be sent to school for the Prioryville site by Thursday 24 October.

The Year 5 Family Harvest Festival will take place at the Prioryville site on Thursday 24th October at 1.30 pm. (Please note this is a change of date from the original dates for the year, due to a Local Authority visit to the school on the Wednesday. Apologies for any inconvenience.)

Year Group Newsletters

Letters will be uploaded onto the school's website shortly to detail what will be happening in each year group. Please look out for them so that you can support your child with their topics at home.



Dates for your diary

October

Tuesday 1st	Year 2 Family Assembly — 9:30 am
Tuesday 15th	SHWMAE Day and Welsh enrichment day - Parents will be invited into Welsh taster sessions – Children can dress in red, white or green
Thursday 17 th	Infant Harvest Festival – Meads Site – 2 pm – Service for pupils only. Please could you send in tins, bottles or dried food which will be donated to the Salvation Army.
Wk beg 21 st	Pembrokeshire Cross Country – Oakwood – Key stage 2 pupils
Thursday 24 th	Year 5 Harvest Family Assembly at 1.30 pm. All welcome. Please could you send in tins, bottles or dried food which will be donated to PATCH. Refreshments for parents following the assembly.
Thursday 24 th	Comprehensive school open evening for Year 5 and 6 pupils at Milford Haven School
Friday 25th	Break up for half term

MONDAY 28 OCTOBER to FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER – HALF TERM



Year 3 change of Christmas performance date

We have realised that we have double-booked on Thursday 12 December with the pantomime for Year 3 and their Christmas family assembly. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. The Year 3 Christmas family assembly will now take place on Tuesday 10th December at 1.30 pm.