



Thursday, 24 August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer
Assalamu alaikum - Peace be with you
Start of Year Letter

I hope that you and your family are well and that your child is enjoying a restful summer.

We are really looking forward to welcoming your child to school in the next few days.

I am writing to confirm arrangements for the start of the new academic year. Please read the information on the next few pages carefully.

School Opening for the new Academic Year

Following the summer holidays, school will re-open as follows:

- All pupils will start school on Monday 4th September at 8am, arriving from 7.45am and will leave at 3.05pm.

School timings

- On Monday till Thursday, school will run from 8am till 3.05pm. Pupils to arrive at 7.45am each day.
- Intervention classes will start at 3.05pm till 4.00pm, pupils and parents will be notified in advance.
- On Friday, school will run from **8am till 12.10pm**.
- Friday intervention classes will start at 12.10pm till 1.00pm, pupils and parents will be notified in advance.
- The school is in full compliance with the Department of Education guidance for the hours expected of pupils to be on school site for 32.5 hours.

Travelling to and from school

Please do ensure your daughter walks to and from school or takes public transport. If this is not possible, and you drive your daughter to school, do not drop off or pick up on the school road. This causes a danger to your daughter, other pupils, and the public as well as congestion and pollution.

Park your vehicle in a safe place, adhering to road regulations. We have a large retail park nearby for safe drop off and pick up, if required or you can park on a road two or three blocks away from the school, thereby reducing congestion and a danger to your daughter, other pupils, and members of the public.

Only use the '**Disabled Bays**' if you have a disabled badge related to your or your child's needs.

Only cross Bath Road using the **designated zebra or pelican crossings**, to ensure your safety and your daughter's.

Your co-operation is much appreciated for the safety of your daughter, other pupils, and members of the public.



School Uniform

The uniform and appearance of our students reflects our ethos and commitment to the highest standards. Whenever the school uniform is worn, it must be complete and not mixed with non-uniform clothing. Parents should contact our School Uniform retailer, Stevensons (please see details below) in good time over the summer to ensure all items are purchased in time for the start of term.

Visit <https://www.stevensons.co.uk/my-account/Register> to login or register a new account with your email address.

Parent Pay & School Lunches

We have in-house catering, who will offer a break and lunch service. Our catering services are fully HMC compliant and will therefore be offering daily servings of chicken and or meat on the menu in line with a healthy diet. The price per day of a set meal is £2.50 as well as individually priced items to purchase.

Parents will need to login and top-up or register to use our cashless payment system ParentPay. If parents experience any problems setting up or managing their account, members of our school office team will be happy to help during the summer holidays and first week of term. We are unfortunately unable to accept any cash payments for school meals. Do ensure your ParentPay account at www.parentpay.co.uk is sufficiently funded and ready for use on the first day in school, alternatively you will have prepared a healthy pack lunch.

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Guarantee

Students may be entitled to 'free school meals' if their parents or guardians receive low-income benefits. This year, the school will make a '**Pupil Premium Guarantee**'. Any student who has registered successfully for 'free school meals will receive:

- Free textbooks and stationery sold at the school
- Subsidised trips and outdoor educational visits upon request made by letter to the Principal

You will be able to claim free school meals for your child if you receive one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

To check your eligibility, you will need to access Slough Borough Council's online form (link below) or speak to the school office for assistance.

[Free school meals – Slough Borough Council](#)



Safety on the Internet

Each year, a small number of our students use the internet at home in an unsafe or harmful way.

As a result, it is possible for students to:

- Access pornography or graphic violence
- Engage in harmful conversations with adults pretending to be a teenager
- Send and receive inappropriate images and videos
- Be very tired in school after being on the internet for long periods during the night

Often, this is because parents:

- Have bought their daughter a mobile phone, iPad or laptop before they were responsible enough to understand the risks
- Have not taken steps to ensure that the internet is safe and adequate filters are in place
- Have allowed their daughter to use her device unsupervised, often throughout the night
- Have not understood that an iPad or a laptop can be used in the same way at home as a mobile phone (to make calls, access websites and exchange images and videos)
- Have allowed their daughter to use social networking sites (such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat) even though they are below the minimum age for these platforms

This is neglectful and puts your daughter and others at risk of great and lasting harm.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that they are aware of how their daughter uses the internet (and social networking) at home – and that she uses it in a safe manner. Please:

- Discuss the importance of safer internet use with your daughter
- Take steps to make your daughter safer on the internet, by:
 - Setting filters to block harmful content
 - Making sure that your daughter does not have any devices in her bedroom overnight
 - Only allowing your daughter to use the internet whilst under supervision
 - Going through the rules about when and how your daughter may use the internet
 - Thinking carefully whether your daughter is mature enough to have a device of her own
 - Checking if your daughter is using social networking sites for which she is not yet old enough
 - Contacting the school if you need advice and support in making the internet at home safer

Pupil ID Badge

Pupils must bring their ID badge to school each day.

- The ID badge will be needed by pupils to confirm their identity, move around the building, access work that they are printing/copying and pay for food in the canteen.
- Pupils must not damage, deface or lose their ID badge, replacements cost £5 made payable through ParentPay

Expectations of Conduct & Attendance

Establishing and maintaining the highest standards of conduct and attendance is vital to the success of every pupil and integral to our vision and values as a school. In our Ofsted inspection in May 2018 inspectors described the conduct of pupils as 'impeccable' and their behaviour as 'exemplary.' This is confirmed by all visitors to our school.



I would be most grateful if you could reinforce with your daughter the importance of respecting our school rules and values in relation to her conduct, attitude to learning, attendance and punctuality as outlined in the Parent Handbook. We require parents support in ensuring pupils arrive to school on time and arranging any medical appointments and holidays outside of term time and school hours. Please also ensure all absences are reported to the school reception before 8:30am.

Term Dates 2023-2024, Attendance & Holidays During Term Time

Term 1 dates

- **Mid-term closure: Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October 2023**
- **Christmas holiday: Monday 25th December - Monday 8th January 2024**

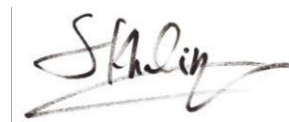
Please find enclosed the full-term dates for the new academic.

It is very important that students attend school fully. Last year, many students achieved attendance of 99% or higher - missing no more than 1 day from school during the year. Each year, students with the worst attendance make less progress and achieve lower grades in their studies. Therefore, we will insist that students attend school fully and we will visit homes of students with poor attendance alongside the support from the Education Welfare Officer from the Local Authority.

As you know, **the school is not allowed to authorise any trips abroad during term time unless there are exceptional (emergency) circumstances for the student concerned.** Thank you for your support with this.

I would also ask for your prayers for the school and that the Almighty protects each of our children and everyone who works tirelessly on their behalf. Aameen.

Yours Sincerely,
Was-Salaam - May peace be upon you



Sajid Khaliq
Principal

Enclosed: School Term Dates & Holidays 2023-2024



SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

2023 - 2024

(All dates are inclusive)

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Staff Inset Days - 1 and 2	Thursday 31 st August and Friday 1 st September 2023
Re-open (for students) on	Monday 4 th September 2023
Mid Term Closure	Monday 23 rd October - Friday 27 th October 2023
Closure after school on	Friday 22 nd December 2023
Christmas Holiday	Monday 25 th December – Friday 5 th January 2024
Number of openings	35 + 40 = 75

SPRING TERM 2024

Staff Inset Day - 3	Monday 8 th January 2024
Re-open (for students) on	Tuesday 9 th January 2024
Mid Term Closure	Monday 12 th February - Friday 16 th February 2024
Closure after school on	Thursday 28 th March 2024
Easter Holiday	Friday 29 th March – Friday 12 th April 2024
('Eid ul Fitr 1445*')	(Wednesday 10 th April 2024)
Number of openings	24 + 29 = 53

SUMMER TERM 2024

Re-open on	Monday 15 th April 2024
May Day Closure	Monday 6 th May 2024
Mid Term Closure	Monday 27 th May - Friday 31 st May 2024
'Eid ul Adha 1445* holiday	Monday 17 th and Tuesday 18 th June 2024
Closure after school on	Friday 19 th July 2024
Number of openings	29 + 33 = 62
TOTAL NUMBER OF OPENINGS	190

Staff Insets : three full days and four twilight sessions

* Please note – 'Eid holidays may be revised slightly depending upon sighting of the new moon