



# School Newsletter

25TH OCTOBER 2024

Headteacher:  
Mr N Lamorte

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## MESSAGE FROM MR LAMORTE - HEADTEACHER

It's wonderful for me to be back at school after a few weeks away due to a foot injury! I've been genuinely overwhelmed by the warm welcome and thoughtful messages of support from our school community. A special THANK YOU goes out to Mr. Ahmed and Mr. Fletcher, who went above and beyond to help me when the accident occurred. Your kindness and support meant a great deal. I'd also like to thank the first aiders who stepped in with care and skill to patch me up! While away, I remained actively involved and in regular contact with Mrs. Jones and our senior leadership team, working together to keep things running smoothly. I am deeply grateful to the team for stepping up so seamlessly in my absence and to the Trust for the way in which they supported the Wychall team.

Year 5 and 6 Aberdovey Adventure! Exciting news from our Year 5 and Year 6 residential trip to Aberdovey! From Monday, October 21st, to Wednesday, October 23rd, 25 of our students embarked on a memorable journey filled with adventure, teamwork, and new experiences. They enjoyed a wide range of activities, including gorge walking, jumping from a jetty and boat, roasting marshmallows over a campfire, and enjoying their first night away from home. What an adventure!!



Our students truly represented the school with excellent behaviour, respect, and enthusiasm, making us all proud. Thank you to Ms. Taylor, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Drummond, and Mrs. Algar for giving their time and energy to create such a rewarding experience for our children. A special thanks also goes to Mrs. Barrow for her diligent work in planning, completing risk assessments, and ensuring the trip's success and safety.

## RECEPTION PHONICS WORKSHOPS A SUCCESS

Mrs. Mitchell shared the fantastic turnout for our recent Reception Phonics Workshops. This event provided invaluable resources and strategies to help you support your child's early reading skills. Phonics is a fundamental component of learning to read, and with your involvement, our children are better equipped to succeed. Thank you to each parent who attended and to Mrs. Mitchell for organizing and leading such an impactful session.

## Attendance Update:

You may have noticed a recent emphasis on improving attendance here at Wychall Primary School. As previously shared, our attendance rates are lower than national averages and are currently the lowest among the twelve Trust schools. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently issued new guidance on attendance, which includes the assertion that children should not be taking holidays during term time and therefore cannot be authorised.

To keep parents informed, letters have been sent to those whose children have attendance below 90%, which the DfE considers persistently absent. We've also reached out to parents of children with attendance below 92%, as these children are close to reaching the persistent absence threshold. We want to ensure that every family is aware of the importance of regular attendance and understands the school's expectation for all students to strive for at least 96% attendance. We've also celebrated our children with perfect attendance! Congratulations letters were sent home to all students with 100% attendance this term, recognising their commitment and effort. We will continue this practice at the end of each half term to highlight the importance of consistent attendance.

**Attendance Shop** Take a look on the next page to find out about the new Attendance Shop initiative launching in November, after half term, to encourage children to attend school regularly. Mr L

# ATTENDANCE SHOP

Launching on Monday 4th November 2024

At Wychall Primary School, we have been closely monitoring children attendance, and while we are pleased to report a slight improvement, bringing our current attendance rate to 93.2% for the academic year, we remain below our target of 96%. Unfortunately, this places us at the bottom of the attendance league within the 12 schools of the DRB Multi Academy Trust, something we hope to change as the year progresses

To address this, the school leadership team, including Miss Stanley and I, are working diligently to support parents in ensuring regular school attendance for all children. Our efforts so far have included a range of strategies such as phone calls, written communications, home visits, giving out stickers, sending home postcards and meetings with families in school. While each of these approaches has its own benefits, we understand that more needs to be done to encourage consistent attendance.

That's why we're excited to announce a brand-new initiative that we hope will have a positive impact—starting on **November 4th, 2024**, we will be launching an '**Attendance Shop**'. This initiative is being run in collaboration with, and funded by, the drb Multi Academy Trust.

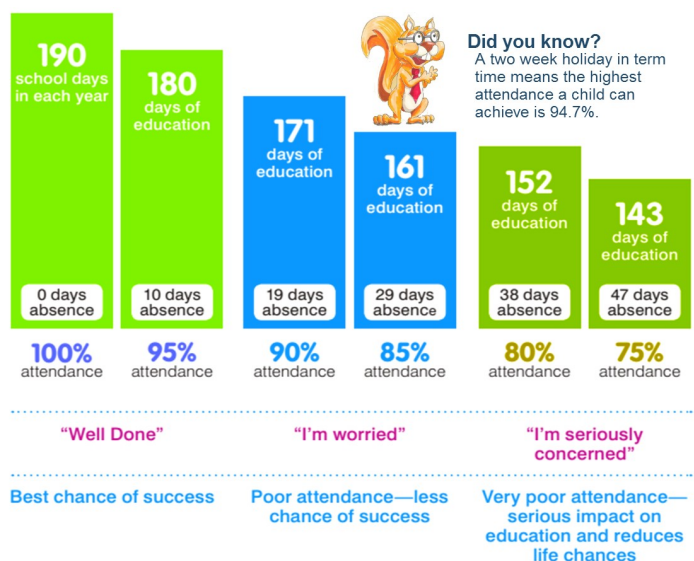
Here's how it works: each week that a child achieves **100% attendance**, they will earn a virtual coin. These coins can then be exchanged for items from the Attendance Shop, or children can choose to save their coins to purchase higher-value items. This will not only encourage better attendance but will also help children learn the valuable skills of budgeting and saving.

Appointments and other exceptional circumstances will be taken into consideration on an individual basis when determining eligibility for coins. For every additional week of 100% attendance, children will receive another coin, allowing them to accumulate rewards over time.

A wide selection of items will be available for purchase, and a full list of these, along with their corresponding coin values, can be seen on the reverse of this article. To build excitement, some of the available items will be displayed in the school's main reception foyer and we will be introducing the items to children in assembly after half term.

We believe this initiative will not only motivate children to improve their attendance but also help reinforce the importance of attending school regularly. As always, our ultimate goal is to help every child reach their full potential, and regular attendance plays a critical role in achieving this.

We look forward to seeing how the Attendance Shop can make a difference and invite all families to support us in making school attendance a top priority. In order to do this, please ensure you have login details for Arbor, where you can keep a close eye on your child's attendance. Together, we can ensure that our children are here, learning, and achieving their very best every day.



What will you buy from the Attendance Shop?

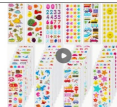
# Attendance Shop

Will you choose to buy something cheaper with your attendance coins or will you save up for something bigger and more expensive? Take a look at some of the things you could purchase at the Attendance Shop!!



# Attendance Shop

**Price List** - Take a look at how many coins you will need to buy the different items from the Attendance Shop. Please remember that it is first come first served, so your favoured item may be out of stock but there is plenty for you to choose from. Remember you get one coin for every week that you have 100% attendance.

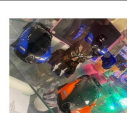
| 3 coin items                                                                      |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| 1 x Squishy Toy                                                                   | 1 x Puffy Stickers sheet                                                          | 1 x Colourful Pencil                                                              |

| 20 coin items                                                                      |                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |
| 1 x Flashing light up fidget spinner                                               | 1 x Small maze book                                                                 |

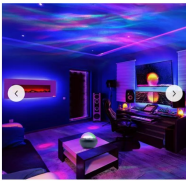
| 6 coin items                                                                       |                                                                                    |                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| 1 x pen with topper                                                                | 1 x small slinky                                                                   | 1 x small plastic skateboard                                                       |

| 25 coin items                                                                       |                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |
| 1 x LCD Writing Tablet                                                              | 1 x Pencil Case                                                                      |

| 9 coin items                                                                        |                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |
| 1 x Multi pen                                                                       | 1 x glow in the dark bracelet                                                       |

| 28 coin items                                                                        |                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |
| 1 x flashing memory game                                                             | 1 x Transforming car                                                                  |

| 15 coin items                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| 1 x Flashing light up fidget spinner                                                | 1 x Small projector                                                                 | 1 x pack of small pencil crayons                                                    |

| 31 Coin Prize                                                                         |                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |
| 1 x Aurora Night Light Projector                                                      |                                                                                       |

We'll look to add to the items available over the course of the year. Miss Stanley will keep a record of all the attendance coins and we will let you know when you can see her to collect/purchase your prize with your virtual attendance coins.

## Dates

### **28/10-01/11 Half Term School Closed to Pupils**

6/11 Open event Reception 2025 9.30 and 6.00pm

11/11 Book Fair Arrives

12/11 Parents Eve 3.30-5.30

14/11 Parents Eve 4.00-6.00

15 Children in Need

18 Book Fair Leaves

20/11 Open event Reception 2025 9.30 and 6.00pm

9/12 Y3 Maths Workshop 2-3

11/12 Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

12/12 Christmas Fair

16-17/12 Christmas Shows

### **20/12—last day of Term normal close time**

21/12 Christmas Holidays start

### **6/1/25 Training day school closed to pupils**

7/1/25 Children return to school

## My Happy Mind

myHappyMind is delivered in schools by class teachers through a series of interactive lessons and then the children apply these learnings throughout the day.

To further embed this learning, myHappyMind has developed a Parent App. These resources can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone. The Parent App will support you as a parent in understanding what your child is learning, activities for you to do together at home and also a Kids Zone featuring myHappyMind Games plus much more!

To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> to create your free account. You will need to enter your name, email, and authentication code. Your authentication code is 142386. Or simply scan this QR code to sign up



## Arbor App

If you have not yet logged into the Arbor app you are risking missing out on vital information. We no longer send out text Messages we use Arbor. This is also how you pay for meals and trips. Next term we will be moving to booking parent's evening slots on Arbor please ensure that you have logged on asap. If you are unable to login for any reason please come to the office for support.

A regular email is sent out to those who have not logged in. When you get the invite use your email as the user name and click on forgot password. This will allow you to set up your own password. Parents have commented when they first login how good it is to be able to see the information about their child and to be able to update their own contact numbers.



# Have you signed up to Arbor?

### What can you do on Arbor?

- Make Payments for school dinners, toast and milk.
- Make payments for trips
- View your child's attendance
- See messages sent by school (This will be the main method of communication with you).



### How to Log in

- 1 - Go to <https://login.arbor.sc> or download the  Arbor App  
- 2 - Enter your username
- 3 - Create your password
- 4 - Please use this guide for further support: <https://shorturl.at/nGOQ8>

### Troubleshooting

- 1 - You are unsure of your username:  
Please ask at the office
- 2 - Please use the guide for further support: <https://shorturl.at/nGOQ8>
- 3 - Please inform the office or e-mail [enquiry@wychall.drbignitemat.org](mailto:enquiry@wychall.drbignitemat.org)

**PLEASE DOWNLOAD ARBOR ASAP**

## Applications for Secondary School

**Reminder** - children born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 are due to transfer to secondary school in September 2025.

Each year the School Admissions Team receives late applications from families who advise they were not aware of the process. Families who apply late are less likely to be offered one of their preferred schools. Therefore, we would be grateful for your assistance in reminding parent/carers at your school to apply on time and where necessary assisting those families who may find the application process difficult. (Please exclude children with an EHCP who need to apply through SENAR – this process and timeframes **do not** apply to pupils with EHCPs)

All the information on the application process for Secondary Transfer is available on the Council's website [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Parents can also call 0121 303 1888 if they wish to speak to a member of the team or alternatively email [admissions@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@birmingham.gov.uk)

It is important applications are submitted on time and no later than **11.59 pm on 31 October 2024**

Families will be notified of the school place offered to their child on **3 March 2025**

## Applications for Reception 2025

Reminder - Apply for a place for your child to attend Wychall Reception Class September 2025.

Please note just because the child attends our Nursery this **does not** give them an automatic place.

We would ask you to visit [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) and submit an online application.

Don't risk not being offered a place at Wychall. We have had 12 applications so far from families who do not attend our Nursery if you do not apply you may not be offered a place at our Reception as places will be offered to those that apply on time first. This means you may be offered your second or third choice

Are you looking for a Reception place in September 2025?

Come and visit  
**Wychall Primary School**

Our Open Sessions are on:

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November and  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
9:30am or 6pm



We look forward to welcoming you on the day

Make your way to the School Office



**Wychall Primary School**  
Middle Field Road, Birmingham, B31 3EH  
0121 464 4255  
[enquiry@wychall.drignitemat.org](mailto:enquiry@wychall.drignitemat.org)

