

Information for New Parents



Welcome to
Sutton Benger CE Primary School



Welcome to Sutton Benger CE Primary School! We are very pleased that you have chosen our school for your children - we are sure that they will settle in quickly and hope that they will be very happy here throughout their primary school days. We are lucky to have such a thriving and busy school with dedicated and hardworking leaders, teachers and support staff. We know that your children will learn, grow and flourish whilst they are here.

What is the role of an Academy Council member at Sutton Benger School? As an Academy Council, we work closely with the school to help set the school's vision, ethos and direction. As a Church of England school, our Christian distinctiveness is at our core - we want all children to understand and believe the Christian values that everyone is valued and respected. We also help the Head teacher to develop the educational performance of the school and the pupils. By working with the staff, we are able to build up a picture of the school and to help ensure that the education your children receive is the best it can be.

How can you be involved? Our Academy Council is made up of parents, community members and foundation Governors (Church appointed Governors). Each member comes with their own particular skill set, but what unites us is our wish to make a positive contribution to children's education. If this is something that you might be interested in and you would like to know more, please contact our chair to find out more.



FOSBS are The Friends of Sutton Benger School and we are all members— every parent or guardian is a member of FOSBS.

What is FOSBS? FOSBS is a PTA. Primarily we are the fundraising arm of the school. We raise money to help enrich the lives of our children and to enhance their education, by providing equipment or activities, which are not covered by the usual funding methods. We have recently funded the climbing wall in the playground.

Who runs FOSBS? We do, as parents. We run all the activities that FOSBS organises, from the discos and mufti days for the children, through to the larger school fetes and Christmas fairs. We have a core committee with a chair, treasurer, secretary and general committee members to comply with the laws regarding charities, but anyone can join the committee at any time throughout the year.

How can you help? We would love you join us. As a Voluntary Aided school, the school need to contribute 10% of any capital spending and so we help raise these funds for the school by carrying out different events throughout the year.



Here at Sutton Benger Primary School we really value the help and support from both parents, carers and the wider community who come into school to help with the children's learning, raise funds and contribute regularly to clubs etc. If you are interested in volunteering at the school please speak to the Admin Team who will be more than happy to help.

PENALTY NOTICES FOR UNAUTHORISED LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

What are s444A and s444B of the Education Act 1996? Section 444A and section 444B of the Education Act 1996 give powers to the Local Authority (LA) to issue Penalty Notices where the parent/carer is considered capable of but unwilling to secure an improvement in their child's school attendance.

Why are these powers available? Reducing absence from school is a key priority at both national and local level. Missing school reduces a pupil's educational attainment and life chances.

What is a Penalty Notice? A Penalty Notice is a fixed fine issued by Wiltshire Council following the school's notification of a pupil's unauthorised absence.

What are the costs? The fine is £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days. A Penalty Notice can be issued to each parent for each child. There is no option to pay a reduced fee for a second offence. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice could result in prosecution through the magistrate's court. Please refer to the school's website for further information regarding the Penalty Notice Code of Conduct.

Who issues them and how are they issued? The Local Authority through the Education Welfare Service by post to your home.

When are they issued for unauthorised Leave of Absence? Penalty Notices are issued for absence taken during term time where the leave of absence has not been authorised by the school or an absence has not been requested in advance and pupil will have had a minimum of 10 sessions (5 school days) lost to unauthorised leave of absence during the previous six months up to and including the day the Education Welfare Service is notified.

What is unauthorised Leave of Absence?

- A parent has made a request for leave of absence in term time and this has not been agreed by the school;
- A parent has not applied for leave of absence in advance of the absence (the regulations do not allow retrospective approval); or
- If the parents keep the child away from school for longer than was agreed, the extra time is recorded as unauthorised

When can Leave of Absence be authorised? Amendments made to the 2006 regulations in the [Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#) make clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.



PARKING / DROPPING OFF OUTSIDE SCHOOL

The Governors, Parents, Staff and Residents have expressed concern over the situation created at the school by parent parking and dropping off when they bring / collect their children to / from school. **RULE 243** of the Highway Code States:

DO NOT STOP OR PARK:

- Near a school entrance
- Anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- Opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- Where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- In front of an entrance to a property
- On a bend
- Where you would obstruct cyclists' use of cycle facilities

It is also illegal to drive onto or park on the footway. It obstructs the free passage of pedestrians, particularly those with pushchairs etc, as well as restricting wheelchair usage along the footway. This may result in enforcement action being taken.

You are therefore advised to park **LEGALLY**, away from the school entrance for the safety of all concerned.

As parents you have a duty to park **SENSIBLY** and are reminded of your possible liability should an accident occur.