



**Yardleys  
School**  
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

HEADTEACHER: Mr. N.R. Warner  
BA (Hons), NPQH, NLE  
Reddings Lane, Tyseley, Birmingham B11 3EY  
T: 0121 464 6821  
E: [enquiry@yardleys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@yardleys.bham.sch.uk)  
[www.yardleys.bham.sch.uk](http://www.yardleys.bham.sch.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers

It gives me great pleasure to write to you after my first week in post and after a few days of our students being in school. I have been extremely impressed with students' behaviour, their positivity to their lessons and their excellent uniform. It is wonderful to have everyone back in school again and see so many students enjoying their learning, interacting with each other and making new friends. After so many months of disruption, it truly is great to be back to some normality once more and see the building as it should be – full of learning and laughter.

The vast majority of students have made a fantastic start to their attendance and punctuality records. Can I please ask for your ongoing support in ensuring that your son/daughter comes to school, every day, on time and with the correct uniform. This is really important as there is a direct link between strong attendance and positive outcomes and we want to ensure that every child achieves their full potential. Please see the attached letter on attendance from Birmingham City Council.

The government's guidance with regards to school attendance in light of Covid-19 has changed, with effect from September 2021. The reason for these changes is to ensure that students are in school more regularly so that your child is given every opportunity to fulfil their potential at school.

Your child should now only self-isolate and not attend school in the following situations:

1. Your child has one of the three recognised symptoms of Covid-19, i.e. a new, continuous cough; a high temperature or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste (this means that you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal).
2. NHS Track and Trace contact you or your child to inform your child that they need to self-isolate at home.
3. Your child returns a positive Lateral Flow Test. If your child does return a positive Lateral Flow Test, then they should take a PCR test within two days of returning the positive Lateral Flow Test. If the PCR test is negative, your child should return to school as soon as any Covid-19 symptoms have ended (this could be the same day as receiving the negative PCR test result if your child is not displaying symptoms), however, if your child's PCR test is positive, your child should self-isolate at home for 10 days from the date of the positive Lateral Flow Test. As a school, we will ask for evidence of positive PCR Test results.

This means that students will no longer be asked to self-isolate if they are a 'contact' of someone who has symptoms of, or has tested positive for, Covid-19; this includes members of your household. If your child does believe they have been in contact with Covid-19, they should attend school as normal unless they fall into one of the three categories above. Work will be made available via the school website if your son/daughter does need to self-isolate.

However, at Yardleys School we will continue to do everything that we can to protect the school and wider community; this will be done in the following ways:

1. Students and staff can continue to wear masks at school if they wish to do so.

2. Hand sanitiser is still available for students and staff to use throughout the day.
3. Classrooms and offices at school will continue to be ventilated through the opening of windows and doors (where the door is not a fire door).
4. We will continue to encourage all students to take twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests at home and will continue to make these available to students at school.
5. We will continue to encourage all students who have any of the three recognised symptoms of Covid-19, or who believe they may have been a contact of anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19, to take a Lateral Flow Test and subsequent PCR test if the Lateral Flow Test is positive.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the information above, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year or Mr. Tullet, the school's Attendance Officer.

We have updated our risk assessment which you can view on the school's website/VLE.

Our teachers have spent the first few days reiterating our expectations of our school and I would like to remind you that mobile phones are not allowed in school anywhere on the grounds, playground or driveway or any time when students are arriving or leaving school.

As you know, the school has been working hard on its remote learning provision to ensure that all students have access to lessons and resources during periods if, in the future, there is a period of closure. Staff are continuing to add to this and enhance and further improve our existing remote arrangements. Thankfully, we are all back into face to face lessons. However, should the need arise for us to revert to remote learning, it is extremely important that parents and carers encourage their child to fully engage with the materials on the website/VLE. More information will be available on this if it is needed.

I have enjoyed meeting all of our students and look forward to working with the whole Yardleys community as we start our new academic year,

With my very best wishes,



NEIL WARNER  
Headteacher

### **Parking outside school**

Please could parents and carers park in designated parking spaces outside of school. We have had several complaints from neighbours of cars blocking drive ways and other vehicle access points. This also creates a real danger to pedestrians including our children when they are leaving school or crossing the road.

### **Attendance**

Please note that all pupils need to be lined up ready for the start of the day at 8:40 am and will be recorded as late beyond this time.

We expect all children to have very good attendance to school. Parents and carers of any child not in school will be telephoned at the beginning of the day. Please note that term time holidays are not permitted. Where we have concerns about attendance levels or patterns of absence we will work with parents to improve or rectify the problem. However we may also take further steps including legal action which could result in various penalties and fines.

### **Homework**

In order to fulfil their potential, all students need to learn and revise for every subject which is what our homework system is designed to support. We expect every student to both learn their knowledge organisers and test themselves using the online Frogplay quizzes. In Maths, the testing uses IXL, with Timetable Rockstars also being used in Years 7-8. This revision homework is set every Monday and due a week later.

As parents, you play a key role in ensuring that your children are completing homework and learning the knowledge and we ask that you do encourage and support them in doing so. Those pupils not trying, will unfortunately be placed in a detention every Friday which will last up to 90 minutes.

The school library is open until 4:00 pm Monday – Thursday and until 3:40 pm on Fridays with computer access.

### **Uniform**

We continue to expect high standards of uniform from pupils and the vast majority of pupils meet our expected standards. However we need to remind pupils that they need to wear black leather/leather look shoes (not boots, trainers or canvas shoes); loose fitting trousers or skirts to an appropriate length (no jeans, leggings or rolled up trousers); no jewellery other than plain stud earrings and no excessive makeup. Please see our VLE for our School Uniform Policy.

### **Lost property & Lockers**

Please could I ask parents and carers to ensure that their child's uniform is labelled so that any lost property can be returned. There are lockers available for pupils to store their belongings at a cost of £20 through ParentPay for the duration of your child's time at school.

### **Important dates and events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2021	Attitude to Learning Review Day – parents and carers will be invited to a virtual meeting to discuss the effort, attendance etc. of their child.
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2021	Last day of half term
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	Half term – school closed to all pupils
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021	School reopens as normal to all students

# School Attendance – a very important message for all parents/carers

## September 2021

*Please Read*

13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is an important update about school attendance for the 2021/22 academic year.

Yardleys School is working in partnership with parents and Birmingham City Council to ensure all children return to school following a difficult previous year. We would like to thank parents for the work you have done in ensuring your children received education during that time.

It is now vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education, wellbeing and wider development. We also know that when not in school, children missed being with their friends and the wider social aspects of school.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. ***Therefore, the government has confirmed that school attendance continues to be compulsory.***

This means that (unless parents are formally notified of new lockdown arrangements where schools are closed or a child is required to self-isolate), the usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to send their child/children to school regularly where they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the option for local authorities to again consider the use of legal sanctions, including penalty notices and prosecution in court.

If you are worried about your child/children attending school the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with the school directly. The school has specialist staff who may be able to help, and all schools work closely with health and council teams who may also be able to help if needed.

***Please note that, given the disruption to children's education caused by the pandemic, requests for leave during term time are unlikely to be authorised by the Head Teacher.***

Family emergencies also need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members.

No school or local authority wants to take legal action. Every attempt to resolve parents' concerns and improve a child's attendance will be made before any formal legal action, which may include a penalty notice or court action, is instigated.

***However, where all efforts fail and parents fail to ensure their child attends school regularly, legal action may be considered.***

After so much disruption to children's education over the past year, the most important thing is that the school and parents work together to get children back into school. The school is ready to listen so please contact them if you have any worries and they will try to help you. There is also information for parents and carers on attending school during the pandemic here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Additionally, Birmingham City Council provides online information and guidance to parents on school attendance which you can access here:

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20014/schools\\_and\\_learning/1502/school\\_attendance\\_advice\\_for\\_parents](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20014/schools_and_learning/1502/school_attendance_advice_for_parents)

We wish you and your child/children all the best for the new academic year.

Kind regards

Education Legal Intervention Team  
Birmingham City Council

NEIL WARNER  
Headteacher – Yardleys School