

# Weekly update

## Week ending: 07.09.2018



**Theme:**

— WELCOME —  
**BACK TO SCHOOL**

We would all like to say a huge 'Welcome Back' to our lovely families at Franche. It has been a great pleasure to welcome you all back and see the children's happy faces as they returned to meet their new teachers and see their friends.

### **Hello from Mr Kenyon**

I am delighted and honoured to be the new Headteacher for Franche Community Primary School. I would like to start by saying an enormous thank you to everyone for making me so very welcome.



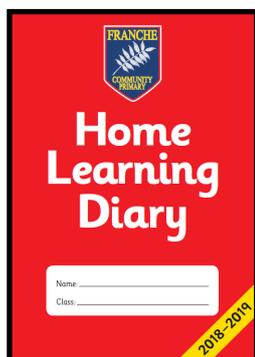
I also want to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself to you. My name is James Kenyon. I was originally born in Southport but made the move to London to start my teaching career in 1997. I have been teaching for 21 years in East London. Most recently, I was employed as the Headteacher of Chapel End Junior Academy - where I spent six happy years. Before Chapel End, I spent seven years as the Deputy Headteacher of Hillyfield Primary School – a large outstanding primary school which is also based in Walthamstow.

I very recently moved to Stourbridge with my family and I am very excited about working at Franche and getting to know you all better. I have had a wonderful first week where I have been made extremely welcome by the excellent staff and lovely children

It goes without saying that I want to build on the good work currently being done in school. There is so much to be proud of already at Franche. My philosophy for education is simply to achieve the 'best for every child'.

I very much look forward to getting to know you all and being part of the next chapter at Franche. I will be holding a number of events over the next term, which will provide an opportunity to meet you and discuss the building of a successful partnership. These meetings will take place at different times, which I hope will enable most families to attend. I will also be on the playground every day—usually by the trim trail in the upper school playground—please do come and say hello. If you prefer, you are also welcome to contact me by email or phone.

### **Home Learning Diaries**



Look out for our new Home Learning Diaries. We have had one made for every child. They contain lots of useful information which will support you all to support your children's learning journey. We hope you will enjoy using them with your children. We are hoping to send them home with the children next Friday. We will be offering regular parent training linked to the materials inside the diaries.

### **A very fond farewell**



We have said a very fond farewell to Jemma Jenkins, our Office Manager, today. Jemma has been an invaluable member of staff at Franche for nearly 14 years and we will all miss her very much. I am sure that you will all join with us in wishing her well. Jemma has secured an exciting new position working for the NHS.



### **A request for help from the office.**

Please can parents refrain from dropping children off at the office in the mornings. Unless agreed with Mr Kenyon, please can all parents take children around to meet their teachers and stay with them until the designated time. Please can all parents collect children from their class teachers at the end of the day. No children will now be waiting at the office other than those who have arranged taxis. Please see Mr Kenyon or Mrs Dixon if you have any concerns about this.

**GOOD ATTENDANCE FOR SUCCESS**

# Every Minute in School Counts



## Attendance—we need your help!

National Average—96.0% (7.6 days off a year)

School Target—96.8% (6 days off a year)

Persistent absence—90% (19 days off a year)

I am writing to all parents to ask for your help with attendance and punctuality. Good attendance is vitally important to children’s progress. The graph below was compiled in March 2016 by the Department for Education and was based on the attendance and outcomes for 561,967 children. As you will see, the impact is significant.

- 96.4% of children with 100% attendance met the national target of level 4 in 2014.
- 70.4% of children with 85-90% attendance met the national target of level 4 in 2014.
- 48.5% of children with 75% or lower attendance met the national target of level 4 in 2014.

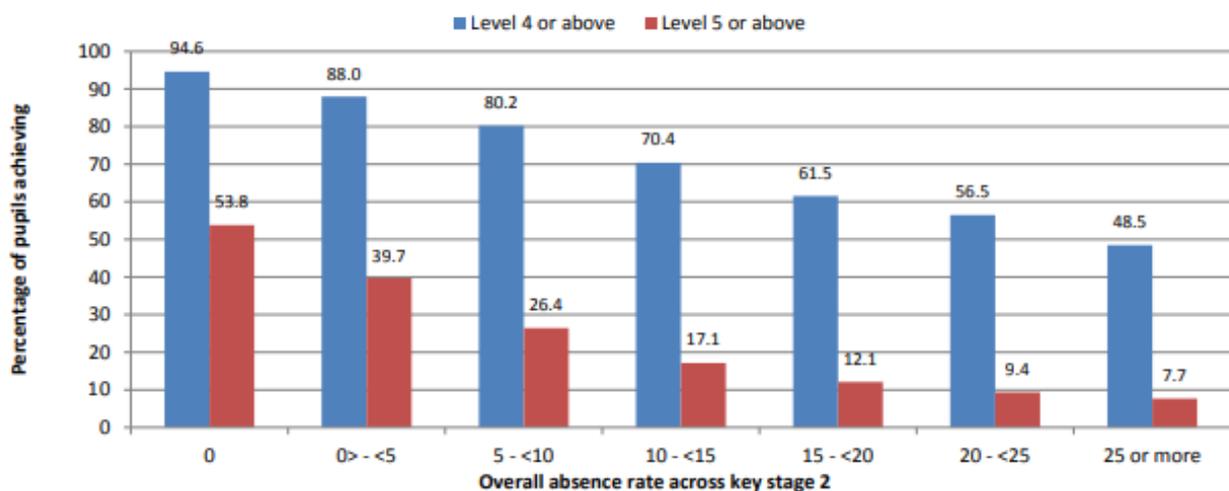
### What if my child is very able?

*Attendance still makes a huge difference. \*\*If children take between 7 and 19 days off a year, their chances of reaching the higher standard roughly half compared to those with 100% attendance\*\**

- 53.8% of children with 100% attendance achieved level 5 in 2014.
- 26.4% of children with 90-95% attendance achieved level 5 in 2014.
- 7.7% of children with 75% or lower attendance achieved level 5 in 2014.

### What is attendance like at Franche Primary?

Currently at Franche, we have below average attendance: (95.6% - 8.4 days off school per a year) The main cause is the huge number of unauthorised holidays taken during term times. I have already received 14 requests for term time holidays since I started three days ago. I am, in all honesty, very shocked by this. Taking a week off in term time will affect your child’s progress significantly and also impacts on others as, when children return, they lose ground on their peers and need extra help. See the information above and graph below. Please do not take your child out of school for holidays.



Overall absence rate across KS2	0	0> - <5	5 - <10	10 - <15	15 - <20	20 - <25	25 or more
Number of pupils	2,150	342,330	110,620	20,735	4,470	1,215	730

## PTA—Annual General Meeting. Monday 10th September at 6.30pm.



Please attend this meeting if you possibly can. We need your help to keep the wonderful events for families going. Thank you.

## Arts Week



We have had a very exciting few days starting the new school year. We have watched our Arts Week video showing how creative we can all be even when we think we have a big challenge on our hands. We'd love you to watch a fun clip with your children on our You Tube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tIPHEd9TIs>

### **Get excited by the arts!**

Now our task is to get as many people excited by the Arts Week as we can! You are more than welcome to join in with our parent workshops—please see below for information.

As well as starting with the video of the collaborative art challenge taken on by staff, each year band has begun the year in their own way:

Tots have been having a wonderful time making handprint pictures and creating bubble wrap paintings. Big Tots have also been doing some yoga!

Nursery and Reception have enjoyed welcoming children to school for what is, for many children, their very first days! Nursery will have a focus on England next week and be looking at the artist Banksy, while Reception will be singing and dancing with a focus on Spain.

Years Two and Three are being inspired by America. A strange box of items arrived in Year Two and, after taking on the challenge to work out what they meant and who they belonged to, they found out they were linked to dancers and a place in North America called New York City. They have begun to create their own dance to share with others. Year Three have begun looking at and designing some prairie schooners and using perception art to look at images in different ways and discuss the possibilities.

A PSHE focus, discussing kindness using 'Kookoo Kookaburra' led Year Four to Australia, where they have started looking at poetry and music including 'Big Rain Coming'.

Year Five have been busy singing their 'Heave-ho' Viking song and reading some dragon poetry. They have also been designing and creating dragons, using a type of plaster called modroc to make their 3D creations.

A video from Percy Jackson has led pupils in Year 6 to Greece. They began their school year with a visit from the Greek Gods who have set them challenges ready for their Arts Week activities next week.

So all in all, a very busy and exciting start to the year! We hope the children are all coming home excited to tell you about their learning for Arts Week and that you enjoy the various workshops and exhibitions taking place across the school. Please check back with our newsletter next week for an update of all the activities.

### **Parent Engagement—please join us if you are able to:**

Year 1. Monday 10th September at 2pm (Aboriginal Art) in the Lower School Hall

Year 2. Thursday 13th September at 2.30pm. (Dance Off—weather allowing)

⇒ Dance off between 2CH v 2W in the Lower School Playground

⇒ Dance off between 2D and 2H in the Upper School Playground

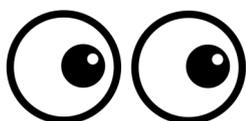
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Year 3. Wednesday 12th September at 9-10am. (Wild West Art) in the Upper School Hall

Year 4. Friday 14th September at 2.45pm (Dance Showcase) in the Upper School Hall

Year 5. Tuesday 11th September at 10am (Viking Ship Making) in the Upper School Hall

Year 6. Wednesday 12th September at 11am (Clay Pot Decorating) in the Upper School Hall



### **Governance—can you help?**

We are looking for new governors. If you are interested, please contact Mr Kenyon or Mrs Dixon at school via the school email address.