



Friday Flyer – 30th January 2026

We are now two weeks away from half term; the time is galloping upon us, and we are excited to see the first sign of spring appearing on our grounds.

The weather continues to be unpredictable therefore please ensure your child has a warm waterproof coat in school every day.

Safeguarding Update:

AI Chatbots: What Parents Need to Know

Many children are curious about AI chatbots, often seeing them as fun, helpful, or just another way to get answers quickly. Recent research shows that a large number of primary-aged children are already using these tools, sometimes without fully understanding whether the information is accurate or appropriate for them. As most AI chatbots are not designed with young users in mind, it is important for parents to stay informed, talk openly with their children about how these tools work, and set clear boundaries. For more practical information and guidance please visit the following [link](#).

Whatsapp

We would urge parents to remember that WhatsApp is a social media platform that allows users to message each other and join groups. While most users communicate with people they know from their own contact list, it is possible for anyone to message anyone else. This creates significant safeguarding concerns, including people misrepresenting their identity and children being exposed to strangers. The suggested age to use WhatsApp is 13 at a minimum, and the strongest advice is that parents should closely monitor use, regularly discuss online safety with their children and carefully consider whether their child is ready to use the platform at all.

For more guidance, please follow this [link](#)

Year 6 SAT's Information Evening

On Thursday 5th February, there will be a SATs Information Evening for parents/carers of our Year 6 pupils from 5:15pm – 5:45pm in Oak classroom.

This will give an overview of the SATs assessments and expectations and we hope that it will prove useful in helping parents to support their child's revision.

For any parents who cannot attend, the presentation will be shared after the evening itself.

Come as You Are!

On Friday 6th February we would like to invite the children to come into school dressed in whatever makes them feel comfortable (within reason!). This is to help celebrate Mental Health Week, beginning on Monday 2nd February.

Parent Governor

Further to our governor vacancy, we are delighted to report that we will be welcoming Mrs C Allan, parent of a child in Birch to our governing body. Mrs Allan will be our new parent governor, and we look forward to working with her.

KS2 Parents Maths Meeting in School and On-Line

On Thursday 12th February we would like to invite the parents/carers of KS2 children to a Maths information meeting - either in school during the afternoon or on-line after school. Further details will be sent home shortly.

After School Clubs

The following after school clubs will start the week commencing 12th January 2026.

If you would like your child to participate in any of the clubs, please either follow the link to book a session or book on Arbor. Here is a reminder of what we have on offer:

Wednesday 12.30 – 1.00	Spanish Lessons all ages	maria.carrera@kidslingo.co.uk
Wednesday 3.15 – 4.15pm	Multi Sports Year 1/2	Please book on Arbor
Friday 3.15-4.00pm	Choir Year 2 upwards	spotlightsinging@outlook.com

Website

We are delighted to report that we will soon be sharing a link to our new website which will contain all the up to date information. On our previous website there seems to be a misunderstanding on the last day of school in the summer term which is Thursday 9th July.

**"TELL ME AND I FORGET.
TEACH ME AND I REMEMBER.
INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN."**

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



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Please see Diary dates below:

Diary Dates 2026

Diary Dates	
Monday 2 nd February	Mental Health Week
2 nd - 6 th February	Year 6 Assessment Week
Thursday 5 th February	Year 6 SAT's Information Evening 5:15 – 5:45pm
Friday 6 th February	Come as you are Day
Thursday 12 th February	KS2 Parents Maths Meeting in person and Online 2-7pm
Friday 13 th February	Celebration Assembly 9:05am - parents welcome
Monday 16 th – 20 th February	Half Term
Monday 23 rd February 2026	School Open

Academic Calendar 2026	
Monday 5 th January- Friday 13 th February 2026	Spring Term
Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February	Half Term
Monday 23 rd February – Friday 27 th March	Spring Term
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13 th April – Friday 22 nd May	Summer Term
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May	Half Term
Monday 1 st June – Thursday 9 th July	Summer Term
Friday 10 th July – Monday 24 th August	Summer Holiday.

Attendance

Can we remind parents to contact the school office before 9.30am if your child is going to be absent so that we can mark the register accordingly.

If we do not know the reason why a pupil is absent, then this will be marked as an unauthorised absence and we may have to raise a safeguarding concern also. Please contact school via phone or email at

ullesthorpe@ipat.uk

GOOD ATTENDANCE MEANS BEING IN SCHOOL AT LEAST 95% OF THE TIME

(180 – 190 DAYS).

There are 175 non-school days per academic year for family time, visits, holidays and shopping.

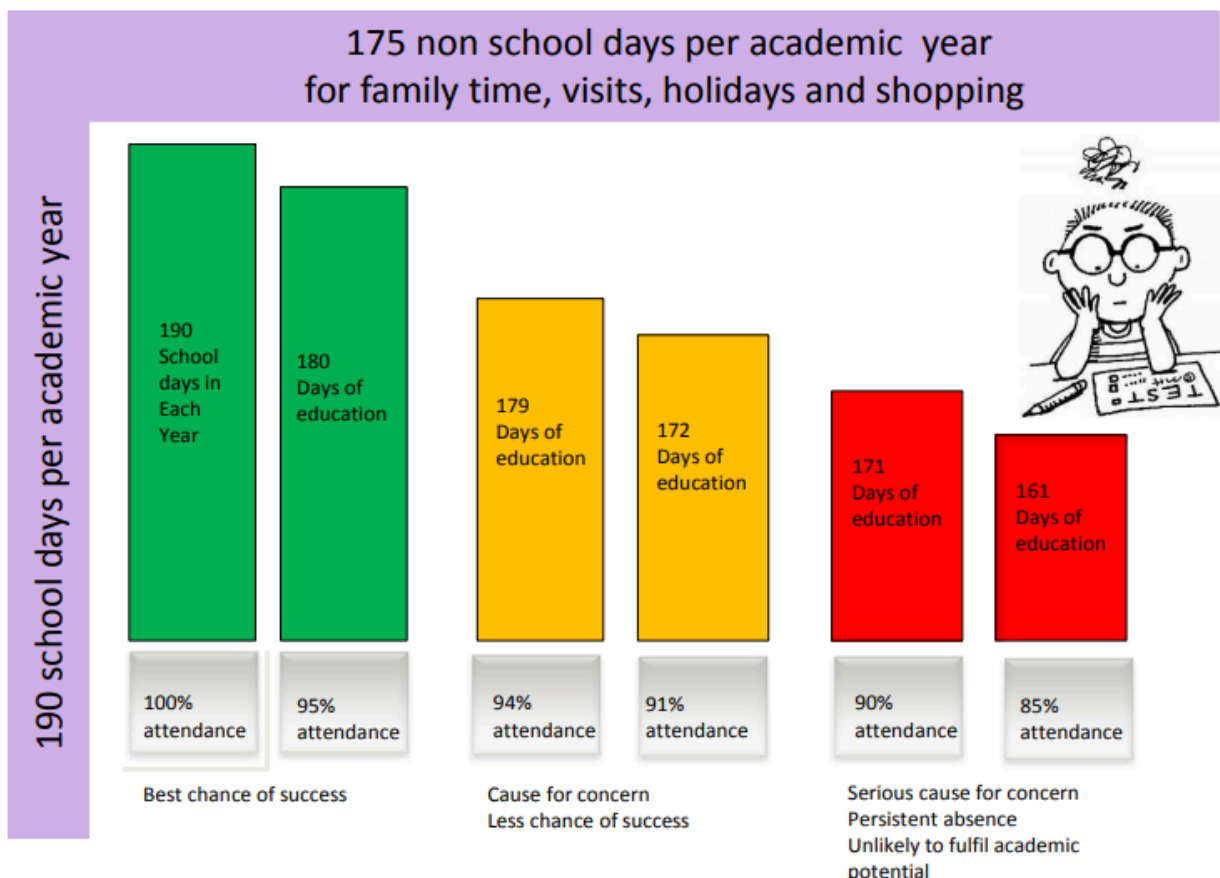
What the government says about school attendance:

At KS2, pupils who attend school nearly every day in year 6 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.3 times more likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, compared to pupils who only attend 90-95% of the time. **This means missing just 10 days of year 6 reduces the likelihood of reaching the expected standard by around 25%.**

Pupils who attend everyday are 1.8 times more likely to achieve the standard than persistently absent pupils who only attend 80 – 90% of the time (relating to 4-6 weeks more time in school).

DFR Report. Link between attendance and attainment:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/link-between-attendance-and-attainment?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=e6e8cd73-0c3d-4532-b222-35984e1d594f&utm_content=daily





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Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have concerns about the welfare of any child, then you have a responsibility to call the First Response Children's Duty Team on 0116 305 0005.

Further advice/ support on this can be obtained from our Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Allen, Mrs McMurrin or Mr Gray.

No nuts or sesame seeds please - thank you for helping us to keep all of our children safe and well

