

Friday 26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can hardly believe that we are already three weeks into the autumn term! It has been wonderful to see the children so settled and happy in school. As you walk around the classrooms and corridors, there is a purposeful calm, with children fully engaged in their learning.

One of the things that always makes me smile is just how polite and friendly our pupils are. Their behaviour is fantastic, and they truly have wonderful manners. This week, in our collective worship, we focused on our school value of *respect* and what it means to be respectful at home. The children shared some fantastic ideas, such as listening carefully to their parents, following instructions, and getting along well with their siblings. I hope you are beginning to see these values being carried over into your homes too.

This week, we were delighted to welcome children from Marhamchurch and St Mark's to take part in our **Sports Leaders Festival**, run by LJD Coaching. The children spent the day learning what it means to be a sports leader, developing the skills to organise playground games back in their own schools. Liam, who led the event, was full of praise for the pupils, noting how their confidence grew throughout the day. It was a real privilege for Jacobstow to host this fantastic event.



Reminders

- **School gates** open at 8:35am and the school day begins promptly at 8:45am. The school day finishes at 3:20pm (or 4:15pm if attending a club). Please ensure your child arrives on time and is collected promptly.
- **Uniform:** Thank you for ensuring children are smartly dressed in red jumpers, white shirts and black shoes (trainers only on PE days).

Attendance Matters

We cannot stress enough how important good attendance is for your child's learning. Even a few missed hours can have a significant impact. If your child has a minor sniffle or headache, please give them Calpol or some encouragement to come in – if they are truly unwell, we will of course contact you and send them home. Please see the attendance grid below which shows the difference even small amounts of absence can make.

Research tells us that excellent attendance improves children's mental health, learning progress and attainment. Our school promotes excellent attendance from all our pupils. The table below is extremely useful in helping us to understand the impact in terms of hours of learning lost through absence. Please know that if you child is feeling under the weather, we are able to give them calpol with your permission.



Percentage	Days in School	Days off School	Weeks off School	Learning Hours Lost
100	190	0	0	0
96%	182	8	1.5	40
95%	180	10	2	50
90%	170	20	4	100
85%	160	30	6	150
80%	150	40	8	200
75%	140	50	10	250

We expect parents to contact the school office before the school day starts when your child is going to be absent to explain the reason why. We will contact the parents on the first day of absence, where a reason has not been provided. If absence continues without explanation, further contact will be made to ensure safeguarding.

Term time holidays will be unauthorised. Please speak to Mrs Jones if you wish to discuss further.
Thank you for your cooperation.

Census Day – Thursday

Next Thursday is a very important day for us: **Census Day**. This is when government funding is allocated to schools, and every child in school on that day counts towards our budget – each pupil equates to around £4,500! Attendance on this day is therefore vital.

To make it special, we are holding a **sports-themed fun day**. Children can come in non-uniform, enjoy a themed lunch, and take part in sporting activities throughout the day. Please do all you can to ensure your child attends.

Year 3 & 4 Residential

Families of children in Years 3 and 4 will shortly receive a separate letter about an information meeting for our upcoming residential trip to Bristol. This is an extremely exciting opportunity, and we are delighted to be able to offer it. Please do come along to find out more.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school. It is a joy to see your children thriving, and I look forward to all that the rest of this term will bring.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Warm regards,

Michelle Jones

Headteacher, Jacobstow Primary School

"Education is the most powerful weapon for changing the world."
Nelson Mandela