

Ackton Pastures Primary Academy

College Grove,
Castleford,
West Yorkshire
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Headteacher: Mrs K. Mason
Chair of Governors: Mrs H.
Causier
Safeguarding Officers:
Mrs K. Mason
Miss H. Bartle
Miss C. Woodhouse
Mrs D.White

'Children at the heart; Inspiring futures'

Friday 13th February

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe we have reached the end of this half term already. Time has flown and there are so many fantastic achievements to celebrate. A huge well done to the team of dancers from KS2 who represented our school at the Pyramid Dance competition last Friday. You were incredible and came back to school victorious, winning first place overall!

Welcome Mrs Cawthorne

We are happy to welcome Mrs Cawthorne to the team from today. Mrs Cawthorne is an experienced teacher joining us from the team at Half Acres. She will be working in Nursery and across LKS2 predominantly. I am sure you will join me in wishing her a very warm welcome!

Waterproof and Wellies

In Early Years the children absolutely love being outside (come rain or shine). With the weather being as wet as it has been, we would like to please ask for any donations of old wellies or waterproof all-in-ones for our children in Nursery and Reception to use. Any donations would be greatly appreciated and would mean our children can still enjoy the outdoors despite the rainy weather! Thank you in advance from the Early Years team!

World Book Day

Dust off your costumes...we are all excited to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March! On this day we will be celebrating all things reading with an exciting day of reading related learning activities. Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. As usual, we will be awarding prizes for the most creative costumes in each key stage. We can't wait to see your outfits!

Mobile Phones

Our children in Year 6 have been reminded that mobile phones are not allowed to be turned on whilst on school premises. Phones should be switched off as children enter the gate ready to be placed in class boxes when they arrive in the classroom. Thank you for your continued support.

Where are they now?

Remember playing in the school playground at Ackton Pastures Primary in Castleford?

We're on a mission to reconnect with former pupils who have gone on to do something in life or career which they are proud of!

We want to hear about the achievements and milestones you've reached, and impacts you've made. Whether it's career success, an inspiring personal journey, or making a difference in your community, we want to share your journey!

We are creating a special 'Where are they now?' display in the school and need your help. To feature you, we'll need a photograph from your school days ("then") and a recent photo ("now") and a short paragraph describing your journey since leaving us.

After School Clubs

Our teacher led after school clubs for next half term are as follows. Places will be open for booking on Arbor on Friday 27th February 2026 at 3pm. Please note these clubs finish at 4pm.

Day	Year Group/Key Stage	Club	Start date
Tuesday	KS1	Art Club (Miss Wilson)	3 March 2026
Tuesday	KS1	Science Club (Miss Turfrey)	3 March 2026
Tuesday	Year 5 and 6	Football (Mr Smith)	3 March 2026

The **Elite** after school clubs this half term are available to book now and are;

Dodgeball for Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 on Tuesday

Football for Reception and Key Stage 1 on Wednesday

Dance and Cheer for Key Stage 2 on Thursday.

These clubs finish at 4.15pm.

Dates for your Diary

13th February 2026	School Closes
23rd February 2026	Inset Day
24th February 2026	Return to School
5th March 2026	World Book Day - Come to school dressed as your favourite book character
28th-29th April 2026	Year 4 Residential Dearne Valley
20th-22nd July 2026	Year 6 Residential Newby Wiske Hall

Attendance this week	
Reception – Miss Ayling	98%
Reception – Mr Smith	96%
Year 1 – Miss Wilson	76%
Year 1/2 – Miss Binns	84%
Year 2 – Mrs Turfrey	96%
Year 3 – Miss Blakeway	87%
Year 3/4 - Miss Gibbins	95%
Year 4 – Miss Holding	98%
Year 5 – Mrs Longoni	92%
Year 5/6 – Miss Lynch	93%
Year 6 – Miss Woodhouse	99%

Have a lovely half term break!

Mrs Mason, Headteacher

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Electric Scooters

It is currently against the law to ride an e-scooter on a public road or pavement.

We understand that buying an e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can buy them from many popular retailers.

An illustration of a person wearing a black helmet, a yellow t-shirt, and brown trousers, riding a blue and black e-scooter. The background is a solid blue color with a yellow wavy line at the bottom.

Current law

You can buy an e-scooter, but you cannot ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place an e-scooter can be used is on private land.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEV's), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements such as:

- MOT
- Licensing
- Tax
- Insurance

As e-scooters do not have numberplates, signalling ability and do not always have visible rear lights, they cannot be used legally on the roads.

What happens if I'm stopped by the Police

The Police will advise you of the current law about how to use an e-scooter legally and ask you to take it home. They may however still penalise you depending on the nature and gravity of the offence.

Further information

Further details can be found on the following government website:
Powered transporters - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



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NOT VALID WITH ONLINE BOOKINGS

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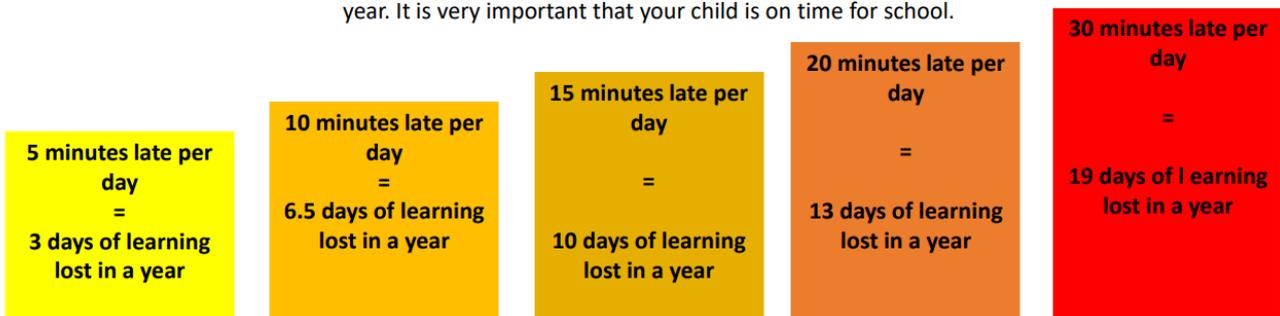
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Attendance Matters Arrive on Time



Every school day counts, arriving a few minutes late a day can mean days of learning is lost over the school year. It is very important that your child is on time for school.



L code = Late arrival after classroom doors close at 9am
U code = Late arrival after registers close at 9.10am (Unauthorised absence)

An accumulation of 10 U codes over a 10 week period can result in a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority for Irregular Attendance

PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ARE CHANGING!

With the introduction of the New National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force on 19th August 2024.

PENALTY NOTICES WILL BE ISSUED FOR

Term time leave: Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period: A Penalty Notice may be considered/issued when a pupil has had 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week* period.

*School Week's

PER PARENT/PER CHILD

Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued per parent per child.

For example: 3 Siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term Time Holiday or Irregular School Attendance the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of issue, reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days**.

SECOND OFFENCE (within 3 years of the First Offence)

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 if paid within 28 days (no reduced fee for paying early).

(**Unpaid Penalty Notice's after 28 days may result in a parental prosecution)

THIRD OFFENCE (within 3 years of the First Offence)

On the third time that an offence is committed for either a Term Time Holiday and / or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case may proceed straight to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000.