



Homer First School & Nursery

Homer News – January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you had a good Christmas and New Year – it all seems a distant memory now. Thank you so much for all the lovely gifts. It is lovely having everyone back, and we would like to extend a warm welcome to our new nursery children who started at the beginning of January and who have settled in beautifully.

One of our key focus areas for this term will continue to be **Attendance & Punctuality**.

It is very important that children establish good routines and habits in preparation for the rest of their lives. Punctuality is a life skill that they need to develop whilst they are young.

It is essential that you ensure that your child arrives at school on time to prevent disruption to your child's own learning and that of others.

Please support us to improve punctuality at Homer and reduce the number of pupils missing the start of their school day.

Key Messages :

- **Every Minute Counts:** Missing the start of the day means missing key introductions, notices, and settling-in time, impacting learning and creating confusion.
- **Life Skills for Success:** Punctuality builds responsibility, discipline, and respect, preparing children for future education and the workplace.
- **Better Outcomes:** Good attendance leads to better achievement, stronger social skills, confidence, and better life chances.
- **School Starts Promptly:** Be on time to ensure your child is in class and ready for the day's learning. Class doors open at 8.35am.
- **Communicate Immediately:** Call the school office before 9 AM if your child is absent or late.
- **Medical Evidence:** Frequent occasional absences may require medical evidence (doctor's note, prescription) to be considered authorised.
- **Term-Time Leave:** Holidays during term time are generally not permitted and can lead to penalty notices.
- **Persistent Lateness:** Repeated lateness (after 9am) is monitored and can become unauthorised absence, leading to welfare officer involvement.

We would like to draw your attention to the flyers attached:-

- Information about Ofsted's renewed framework and which includes a video link so you can see what the new report cards will look like.
- What parents & educators need to know about memes.
- Touch Rugby Development Camp in half term.

Mrs Sharma

Attendance

The Government has issued statutory guidance on attendance for all schools. We will continue to monitor attendance and punctuality.

Our overall school attendance is currently 94.2%.

If we break this down by year group, the numbers are:-

EYFS- 93.9% YEAR 1- 89.3% YEAR 2- 95.7% YEAR 3- 94.8 YEAR 4- 95.8%

Our target is 96%

Please see checklist link below if you are unsure whether to send your child into school due to illness.

[Should I keep my child off school checklist poster \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672212/Should_I_keep_my_child_off_school_checklist_poster.pdf)

Updates & Curriculum News

Class teachers are busy updating classes pages on the school website. Please use the link below. Here you will find information about what has been taught in school this term and what is coming up after half term.

[Class Pages | Homer First School & Nursery](#)

Diary Dates

Tuesday 27th January	Garnet class attending a Team Gym event at Dedworth Middle.
Tuesday 10th February	KS1 trip to Science Oxford Centre
Friday 13th February	Valentines Disco 3.30pm-5pm for KS1 & 2 children (details to follow) Last day of term, 3.10pm finish.
Monday 23rd February	Children return to school
Tuesday 3rd March	West End dance workshops (Pinocchio) for children in Reception, KS1 & KS2
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day mufti. Children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character.
Wednesday 25th March	RockSteady concert, 9.15am. For parents of children attending RockSteady band lessons.
Friday 27th March	Last day of term, 1.30pm finish.