

1st September 2025

Start of Year Letter - September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a great Summer break and I look forward to welcoming back both our returning and new pupils to Piper's Vale. This letter contains important information for the new upcoming academic year so please read the letter carefully.

Wednesday 3rd September

School starts again on Wednesday 3rd September. New SEU pupils have transition timetables and these have been shared separately.

The school gates open at 08:30am and on Wednesday, all teachers and support staff will be on the playground, to show pupils where they will enter the school, line up at the end of break and lunch and where pupils will be released at the end of the day.

For pupils in EYFS and Nursery, the EYFS gate will be open and pupils will enter school that way.

After School Clubs

There will be no after school clubs until Monday 15th September.

A letter will be sent out in early September about after school clubs and how to sign your child/ren up to attend.

When after school clubs commence, please ensure that you collect your child promptly at the club's finish time.



School Day Timings

Nursery Pupils:

08:30am - 11:30am

Reception - Year 6 Pupils:

The gates open at 08:30am and the school day starts at **08:40am**. All pupils are expected to be in their classroom by 08:40am, for the start of their first lesson.

The school day finishes at 3:15pm and the gates will open at 3:10pm and close promptly at 3:30pm. Please ensure that you are on time to collect your child/ren from school.

SEU Pupils:

The school day for our SEU pupils is 09:00am - 3:00pm.

Punctuality is very important. If a child is 5 minutes late for school, three times a week, then over the course of the year, they will miss 585 minutes of learning (9 hours and 45 minutes).

If your child arrives after the start of the school day, then they will need to be signed in by a member of staff via the Perkins Way gate. Please do not send your child in via the school office before 09:00am.

Attendance

The government has placed an even greater focus on school attendance next year. The expectation is that all children attend school **every day** unless they are too unwell for school, or there are exceptional circumstances.

If your child is too unwell to attend school, then please contact the School Office as soon as possible, or leave a voicemail, or a text message via MCAS. **Please note** that we may ask for **medical evidence** to authorise your child's absence.

If your child is not at school and you do not notify us of their absence, then a home visit may be conducted and the absence will be recorded as



unauthorised. Once a pupil reaches a period of 8 unauthorised sessions, then in line with statutory guidance, a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued.

In line with Suffolk County Council and Government guidance, **no** holidays will be authorised in term time, unless there are extenuating, exceptional circumstances. Please ensure that you complete a 'Request for Absence' form, if your child is going to be absent during term time for an extended period of time. This form can be collected from the School Office.

You can keep a track of your child's attendance via the MCAS Parent app.

Uniform

The expectation is that **all** pupils attend in full school uniform everyday and in PE kit on their PE day.

If a pupil does not attend in full school uniform, or full PE kit on PE days, then you may be contacted and asked to bring in the correct uniform. Below is a reminder of the school uniform/PE kit at Piper's Vale:

School Uniform:

- Black or grey trousers
- Black or grey skirts
- Black or grey pinafore dresses
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Fully black shoes/trainers/ankle boots *(no high heels)*
- Royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan *(these don't have to have the school logo)*
- Black or grey shorts
- Blue and white checked school dresses

PE Kit:

- Black/navy/grey shorts *(no logos)*
- Black/navy/grey jogging bottoms *(no logos)*
- Black/navy/grey sweatshirts *(no logos)*
- White polo shirt or t-shirt *(no football shirts)*
- Trainers or plimsolls
- NO jewellery(including earrings)



Personal Items

Please do not send your child to school with toys/personal items unless the SENCo has agreed to this.

Please note that children are not permitted to wear jewellery to school, other than a wristwatch (not a smart watch) and a maximum of one studded earring in each earlobe.

We do not encourage pupils to bring mobile phones to school, but if they do bring a phone to school, this **must** be switched off while on school site and handed in to the class teacher.

Breakfast Club

If you require your child/ren to attend Breakfast Club from Wednesday 3rd September 2025, then please sign your child up via MCAS as soon as possible to secure a space. Payment must also be made via the MCAS Parent app and must be completed in advance.

Water Bottles

If your child brings a water bottle into school, then this must only contain water. If you wish for your child to have juice or squash, then they can have this at lunchtime only. Please do not send your child in with a metal water bottle; **named**, plastic bottles only. Thank you for your cooperation.

Snacks

If you send your child with a snack for breaktime, please ensure it is a healthy snack such as fruit, not sweets and chocolate etc. We are a nut free school, please do **not** send food items that contain nuts or nut products.

School Lunches and Home Packed Lunches

All pupils up until the end of Year 2 are entitled to an infant free school meal at school. There are a variety of both hot and cold options available every



day and we encourage children to take up this offer. (Please see the menu [here](#)).

The cost of a school meal for those not entitled to an infant/free school meal is £2.50 per day. Please use the MCAS Parent app to pay for these.

There is a limit of money owed that an account is able to accrue and that is £12.50. If your child's account reaches a debt of £12.50, you will be contacted by the school and your child will not be able to order a school lunch until this balance is cleared.

Please can I also remind you that if your child has a home packed lunch, that they are sent in with no products that contain nuts; we are a **nut-free school**. Please also try and fill your child's packed lunch box with healthy foods, snacks and drinks too (no fizzy or energy drinks please).

Lost Property

Please write your child's name in all items of uniform, lunch boxes, bags and water bottles. All named items found around school are returned to their owner.

At the end of last term, we had nearly 30 sacks full of unclaimed and unnamed lost property. Processing this volume of lost property was a monumental task.

Going forwards, a lost property box shall be put out on the playground at the end of each day, containing unnamed items. This box will be outside until 3:30pm daily. At the end of each week, any lost property not claimed by 3:30pm on a Friday will be taken to the clothing bank.

Academy Council

We are looking for new academy council members (a separate letter will be sent out about this soon). If you are interested in this, please come and talk to me.



PTA/Friends of the School

We do not currently have a PTA/friends of the school at PVPA. All of the after school events such as the fairs and discos etc are organised and run by school staff. We would really like to establish a PTA to help organise events/fundraising opportunities etc. If you are interested, please talk to me.

Returning Pupil Medicines

If your child needs any medication administered during the school day, please ensure you return this medicine and complete a new medication form. We are unable to administer medication unless a form has been completed. Please come to the school office to complete this.

PE Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00 - 10:00	1/2EL	1N	1/2EL	1N	2J
10:00 - 11:00	3S RP	3S	4S	4S	RP
13:00 - 14:00	2J	5A	6K	6G	5A
14:00 - 15:00	3/4D	5B 3/4D	6G	6K	5B

There will be no PE the first week back. It will start on Monday 8th September.

Should you have any questions, about any of the above, or anything else, please come and speak to me - I am usually on the playground at the beginning and the end of the day. Or you can leave a message with the school office and I, or a member of the leadership team, will get back to you.

Yours faithfully,

Kimberly Morton
Principal