

14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have had a good week so far and are looking forward to the weekend.

We have a busy week ahead next week at the Lower School with parents evenings as well as open mornings for our potential new reception children in September 2023. It will be a good opportunity to visit the school and see our fabulous reception classroom and facilities whilst families are making choices for the next academic year. When I spoke to our new families last year, I talked about the opportunity for a fourteen year education journey at Preston Manor School - joining in reception and working through to the end of Year 13. Of course the added bonus about joining our Lower School, is that it makes the transition to secondary school easier for our young people as well as the application process for our parents, because your children will already be in Preston Manor!

I want to mention attendance and punctuality this week as both are extremely important aspects of our school life. We expect high attendance at our school and we are proud that our attendance figures are consistently above the national benchmark but I want to talk about the impact of low attendance. For example, if a student achieved 90% in a test, assessment or exam, we would be overjoyed and rightly proud of this. If a student has 90% attendance at school, this means that they would miss one full day of education every two weeks. Over the course of the academic year, this would equal missing 19 days of education. Over a fourteen year period, this would mean missing 266 school days and when you factor that into an academic year, it means that a child with 90% attendance would miss **nearly one and a half years of school**. It is difficult to comprehend just how much learning and progress would be lost, so please support us in getting your child to school on time and aiming for excellent attendance!

Earlier in the week, we had a Parent Partnership online meeting where various aspects of the school were discussed and parents were able to ask questions that they may not have been able to get answers to. A lovely feature of the evening was that some of our parents were answering questions in the 'chat' function before any of our staff did! This truly is parent partnership in action. Our next steps for the next meeting will be to give feedback on the progress being made to some of the enquiries as well as circulating the agenda items that were being discussed so that our parents knew the topics beforehand. It was also great to see 120 people joining the zoom call at one stage. Next time, we will aim for 200 - so please do join us.

Today has been a busy staff training day with some sessions centred around our all-through curriculum, literacy as well as externally led sessions on the Prevent Duty, ensuring that as a school, the safety and welfare of our young people remain our primary focus.

On Friday 21st October, we will be breaking up for half term and as a reminder, it is a normal school day without any amendments to start and finish times.

Hoping you all have a good week ahead.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Denial', with a stylized flourish at the end.

R Denial  
**Executive Headteacher**