

17 July 2025



**Smestow Academy**  
[www.smestowacademy.co.uk](http://www.smestowacademy.co.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another successful academic year, which marks two and a half years for me as Headteacher at Smestow Academy, I am immensely proud of the magnificent progress we have all made as a school community, pupils, staff and parents. The calm and purposeful environment we have cultivated continues to draw praise from visitors, who regularly comment on the positive atmosphere day in day out in lessons. We have again seen a significant improvement in whole-school attendance this year, as well as impressive increases in reading ages across all year groups. This is clear evidence of our clear and consistent approach working. Just as importantly, it's been incredibly rewarding to see our commitment to providing a well-rounded education in action: from pupils competing and performing at Alexander Stadium during the Matrix Trust Sports Day, to the outstanding performances in our production of *Matilda*, and over 60 Year 9 and 10 pupils successfully completing their first Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Smestow is fast becoming a thriving and aspirational school where pupils can grow into successful, resilient and confident learners.

We sign out of this wonderful year by sharing the important information for next academic year ahead.

### Start of Term Arrangements

The first week back arrangements are as follows:

- Monday 1st September 2025– Staff training day (Pupils should not attend)
- Tuesday 2nd September 2025 - Year 7 and Year 11 prefects are to arrive to school for a 8:30am start. Their school day will finish at 3pm. Year 12 enrolment will take place between 9:30am-11:30am.
- Wednesday 3rd September 2025 – All Year groups return to school
  - Year 7, 8 and 9 will be in school from 08:30am.
  - Year 10 and 11 to arrive to school for 09:15am.
  - Year 12 and 13 students to arrive for 10:15am.
  - All pupils to finish for 3pm.
- Thursday 4th September (normal school days) - All year groups will be in school 08:30am-15:00pm. Pupils should arrive for 8:25am as always expected.

### ClassCharts

As we continue to use Class Charts to record your child's school day please can we remind you to download the Class Charts parent app if you haven't already. This will allow you to see positive and negative behaviours happening in real time for your child so we can continue to work together to get the best from all pupils. We will also be setting homework through the app moving forward. If you require any support with this and getting your child's code, please email [postbox@smestowacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@smestowacademy.co.uk)



Smestow Academy  
Windmill Crescent  
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**Matrix**  
Academy Trust  
EDUCATION WITHOUT EXCEPTION

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### Equipment

In order to be fully prepared for learning we ask that pupils bring to school each day 2 black pens (one spare), green pen, pencil, ruler, scientific calculator and their pupil handbook which will be distributed on return in September.

### Medical Conditions

If your child has a medical healthcare plan that has been written by a medical professional, please bring a signed copy of this in to school. Additionally, please contact school reception on Tuesday 2 September to arrange for you to bring in the required medication and to complete the relevant paperwork with one of our First Aiders. We are unable to administer medication prior to written consent being obtained from parents/carers.

### Attendance

Last academic year, new government guidance on Penalty Notices for school absence was introduced to help improve attendance following the pandemic. This guidance remains in place and will continue from 19th August 2024.

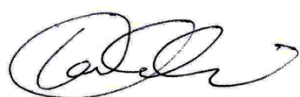
Key points include:

- A Penalty Notice Fine may be issued if a child has 10 sessions (5 full days) of **unauthorised absence** within a 10-week period.
- The fine is **£160 per parent, per child**, reduced to **£80 if paid within 21 days**.
- A second Penalty Notice within three years carries a £160 fine with no discount.
- Further offences may lead to court action, with fines up to £2,500 and possible impact on future DBS checks.
- Penalty Notices can also be issued when parents take children out of school during term time without permission.
- Separate fines apply for each child if siblings are absent without authorisation.

We thank all parents for their continued support in helping us maintain good attendance.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us make Smestow Academy a truly 'welcoming and caring environment' for all, whilst also encouraging our children to 'strive to improve and be their best'. It's been a pleasure to see our school community grow stronger this year, and I'm excited for what lies ahead. I wish you all a fantastic, restful summer break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another successful school year in September.

Yours faithfully



**Mr I Chamberlain**  
Headteacher



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