'This is Me' - Inclusivity

NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Welcome to the first of this year's newsletters. It has been a busy first few weeks and our leadership team have enjoyed spending time in each classroom – we've been really impressed with our children's learning behaviour and how well they've settled into their new year group.

You should have received our term dates, your year group newsletter as well as a link to our Knowledge Organisers (https://www.straitsprimaryschool.com/knowledge-organisers/). We have many events planned this term so please make sure that you check our website, Facebook page and Parenthub messages regularly.



Attendance Winners

Our attendance cup winners for September are:

Week ending	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
Friday 11th September	Miss Pearson	Miss Cotterill
Friday 18th September	Mrs Bradley/Miss Cook	Mr Hardeman and Mr Scullion
Friday 25th September	Mrs Bradley/Miss Cook	Mrs Reynolds Lawrence

Attendance Update

Our attendance for September is 97% - this is a great start to the year and one I hope continues.

As you will be aware, each school is required to track and monitor pupils' attendance. Last year, we changed the way we approach attendance at Straits making it our priority to ensure that every child and family receives the support they need to engage positively with school and achieve the best possible outcomes. As part of this commitment, we worked in partnership with *Inclusive Attendance* – this was a real success as our overall attendance for the year was 96.1% (with the national average being 94.7%). Thank you for your role in achieving this.

Our approach continues to be based on an inclusive model of attendance, with a clear focus on ensuring that children, families and staff understand the part they each play in promoting good attendance. By working together, we can encourage regular attendance, support children to engage fully in their learning, and identify and respond to any difficulties that may prevent them from attending school consistently.

We are therefore continuing our Multi-Tiered System of Support. This approach provides different levels of support according to the needs of each child and family. Our universal offer provides support for everyone, while Tier 2 offers additional family-help support for children who may need further assistance. Where more intensive support is required, Tier 3 provides access to more specialist services and resources for identified children and families.

This is me - Inclusivity

We are beginning the school year with our new theme, "This Is Me" – Inclusivity. Throughout the term, we will celebrate the qualities, experiences and characteristics that make each of us unique, while also recognising the many things we have in common. We want every child to feel valued, respected, heard and included, understanding that they are an important part of our school community and that everyone has a place here.

As part of our theme, we will be recognising and taking part in a range of important events and initiatives, including *Bright for Sight Day, Black History Month, World Mental Health Day, Anti-Bullying Week, Children in Need and Show Racism the Red Card*.

We will also provide opportunities for our children to develop their understanding of respect, relationships, diversity and inclusion. This will include banter workshops, helping children to recognise the difference between friendly joking and comments or behaviour that could hurt or offend others. For our older pupils, we

will also be delivering racial diversity workshops, creating a safe space for them to explore and discuss topics such as race, identity, equality and respect through open, honest and age-appropriate conversations.

Through these experiences, we hope to nurture empathy, confidence, kindness and respect, while giving our children the knowledge, understanding and language they need to appreciate and celebrate the diverse world around them. Most importantly, we want every child to understand that being different is something to celebrate, and everyone deserves to feel that they belong.



As part of this initiative, we have introduced a weekly **'Respect Trophy'**, awarded to a pupil who consistently demonstrates respect towards their peers, the adults who work in our school and the wider school environment. This recognises and celebrates children who show kindness, consideration and positive behaviour, helping to create a welcoming and respectful school community.

Year 6 Pioneer Centre



Our Year 6 pupils have returned from a fantastic week at the Pioneer Centre, where they took part in an exciting range of activities, including the giant swing, raft building, high ropes, archery, Laser Tag, abseiling and a thrilling zip wire!



Throughout the week, the pupils were enthusiastic, well behaved and always willing to have a go at something new. They represented the school brilliantly and were a real credit to us through their positive attitudes, excellent conduct and determination.

Well done, Year 6 – we are incredibly proud of you! https://www.straitsprimaryschool.com/year-6/

Parking

I continue to have local residents contact me about parking outside of the school. Whilst we appreciate that there is limited space, could we all make a conscious effort to consider how and where we park. As a community, by all working together, we can make it safer for all our children. **At no time should any parent park on the yellow zigzags or block a local resident's driveway.**

School Leadership

We have now elected our leadership positions for this year. This included our Head Boy and Head Girl, School and Eco Council representatives, Anti-bullying Ambassadors, Prefects and House Captains.

Upcoming Events

October

Monday 5th	Bright for Sight Day
Wednesday 7th	Year 1 'Open the Door' @ 9.00am
Wednesday 7th	Year 4 'Astley Burf' meeting for parents @ 6pm
Friday 9th	Hello Yellow Day (World Mental Health Day)
Tuesday 13th	Reception 'Open the Door' @ 2.00pm
Thursday 15th	Year 3 Kingswood trip
Friday 16th	Show Racism the Red Card Day
Tuesday 20th	Reception Puppet Show
Tuesday 20th	Year 5 World War Two Day
Tuesday 20th	Parents' evening (4.00pm - 7.00pm)
Wednesday 21st	Individual school photographs
Thursday 22nd	Parents' evening (4.00pm - 7.00pm)
Friday 23rd	**School Closed (teacher training day)**
Monday 26th	**Half-term**

November

Monday 2nd	Back to school
Friday 6th	Year 2 Selly Manor trip

Tuesday 10th	'Open the Door' Year 3 @ 9.00am
Tuesday 10th	Year 1 Lego trip (new event)
Friday 13th	Children in Need Day
Monday 16th	Anti-bullying week
Tuesday 17th	Flu vaccination 'catch up'
Friday 20th	Reception Diwali Day

Key Information

Bright for Sight Day

Next Monday (5th October) is 'Bright for Sight Day' and we will again be raising funds for Beacon Centre for the Blind - www.beaconvision.org

We will be hosting assemblies and workshops in school, focusing on living with sight loss. As part of this event we are inviting our children to wear their brightest clothes to school on this day and requesting that they make a donation of £1.00 to this worthwhile charity (of course you are welcome to donate more).

Individual pupil photos

On Wednesday 21st October, Screen Shoot Photography (https://www.screenshoot.co.uk/) will be attending the school to take your child's photograph.

The company have informed us that they will take a group 'sibling' photograph for those families with more than one child in school and an individual photograph for each child.

They have also offered that, if you would like a family 'sibling' photograph to include a child who does not attend our school, then they will offer these at 8.00am (before school).

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will be held on Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd October from 3.50pm until 7.00pm.

Bookings for this event will go live on Monday 5th October, and we ask that appointments are booked promptly. Discussions with your child's teacher will take place in their classroom (children are welcome to join you at this appointment) and Mr Freear and Mr Wade will be offering tea and coffee in the hall. They will be joined by the school nurse, our uniform supplier and there will be an opportunity to try samples of some of the hot meals – please pop in to say hello.