4th September 2026

Redhill Primary Academy
Mail on Friday





Email us at: parentcontact@redhillprimary.co.uk

Welcome Back

We would like to welcome all of our children back to school. A special welcome to our new children and new staff. We hope that you had a wonderful summer break and look forward to another exciting year ahead.

Admission to Year 7 Thomas Telford Applications

The Year 7 admission documents are now available to download on the Thomas Telford website at

https://www.ttsonline.net/admissions/admissions-to-year-7/

The closing date for applications is 4pm on Monday 22nd September 2026. Applications must be returned to them directly by post or be hand delivered. They do not accept late applications.

Upon receipt of your completed application / declaration form they will send details of your child's assessment session. If you have not received your invitation to an assessment session by Friday 25th September, please contact the Admissions Office on 01952 200000 or admissions@ttsonline.net

Check Your Arbor Account

We kindly remind all parents and carers to check their Arbor account and ensure that the information for you and your child is accurate and up to date.

Please ensure any changes that may have occurred over the summer, i.e. home address, telephone numbers, email addresses, and emergency contacts are updated. Keeping your child's records up to date helps us to communicate with you effectively and ensures we have the correct information in case of an emergency.

Parents and Carers Safeguarding Board

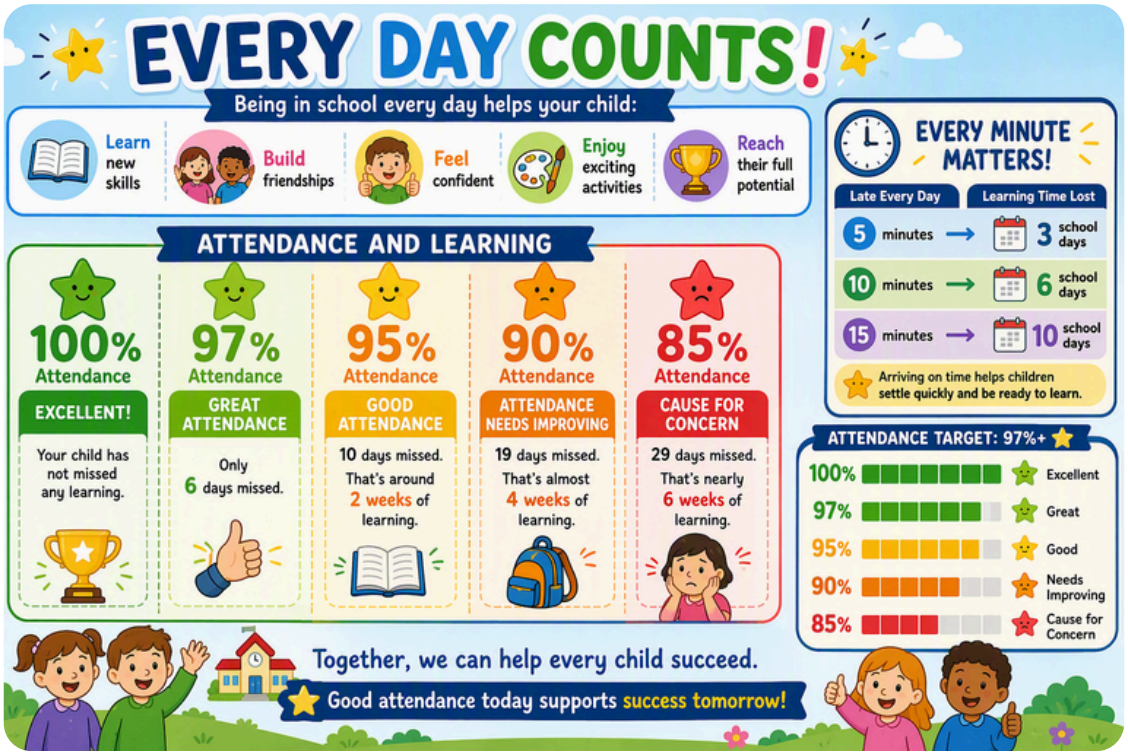
This year, we will continue to run our parents and carers safeguarding board with our current members. Safeguarding means protecting children from physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect in all environments including at home, in school, on the street and in the digital world. It also means helping children to grow up into confident, healthy and happy adults. The board will aim to bring more awareness of how we can keep our children safe and reduce the risk of them suffering any harm. Members commit to half termly meetings and are asked to write half termly briefings in the Mail on Friday Newsletter.
We are always looking for other members who can support the school through bringing awareness of safeguarding to others. If you would be interested in becoming a member, please email parentcontact@redhillprimary.co.uk for the attention of Mrs Cartwright.

School Attendance

Regular attendance at primary school is essential for every child's academic success, emotional wellbeing, and social development. When children attend school consistently, they:

- Build strong foundations in literacy and numeracy
- Form lasting friendships and develop social skills
- Stay engaged with routines that support concentration and confidence
- Avoid falling behind in lessons that are difficult to catch up on later

Even occassional absences can add up, missing just one day means losing up to five hours of valuable learning time. Frequent lateness or absence can disrupt a child's progress and affect their ability to achive their full potential.



Parking Considerately

Please can we remind parents/carers to park considerately when dropping off or picking up from school.

Please be particularly mindful of other drivers and be vigilant of occurrences happening whilst you are driving/parking during this busy drop off and pick up time.

Free School Meals Changes from September 2026

What is changing?

There are now be two categories of Free School Meal entitlement:

Targeted Free School Meals (Targeted FSM)
Children may qualify for Targeted FSM if their household is in receipt of Universal Credit and has annual earnings of £7,400 or less, or receives another qualifying benefit. This entitlement includes:

- Free school meals
- Pupil Premium funding for schools
- Eligibility for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme
- Access to certain additional educational support and travel assistance schemes

Expanded Free School Meals (Expanded FSM)
Children may qualify for Expanded FSM if their household receives Universal Credit but has annual earnings above £7,400.

This entitlement provides:

- Free school meals only

Please note that Expanded FSM does not attract Pupil Premium funding or additional support linked to Targeted FSM.

Families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) may also be eligible for Targeted FSM if they meet separate qualifying criteria.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive a free school meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, regardless of household circumstances.

End of Transitional Protections

Since 2018, some children have continued to receive free school meals even when their family circumstances changed. These arrangements were known as transitional protections. As FSM entitlement is now being expanded to all families receiving Universal Credit, these transitional protections ended on 31st August 2026.

This means that:

- Some children may no longer be eligible for FSM from September 2026 if their family is no longer receiving Universal Credit or another qualifying benefit.
- Eligibility will now be based on a family's current benefit status.
- Free School Meal eligibility will be reviewed through regular checks by the local authority.

What Do Parents Need to Do?

If Your Child Currently Receives Free School Meals In most cases:

- You do not need to submit a new application.
- The local authority will automatically check eligibility using the information already held.
- You will be informed if there are any changes to your child's eligibility.
- In some circumstances, the local authority may contact you to confirm or update your details.

[If Your Child Does Not Currently Receive Free School Meals:

- You may now be eligible under the expanded criteria.
- Applications should be made through your local authority.

If you are unsure whether your child is eligible, your circumstances have changed, or you require assistance with an application, please contact Telford & Wrekin Council Free School Meals Team on 01952 383983 or visit:

www.telford.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-meals/free-school-meals/