

13th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, students, staff and our wider community for all your support during this academic year. Despite funding issues in education generally, here at Patchway Community School we are seeing year on year improvements in attendance and academic performance. Suspensions and exclusions continue to fall, and we have offered more trips, visits and enrichment activities than ever before. Our new build project remains on track to start this summer too – all in all it is a very positive picture, and I am incredibly proud to be Headteacher at Patchway and I'm fully committed to further improvements next year.

As we head towards the end of term before the long summer break, it feels a good time to reiterate and communicate our expectations regarding several key aspects of school life, as well as the arrangements for the start of the new term in September.

This week sees our Enrichment Week with various trips and visits, as well as an exciting programme of activities at Base Patchway and Sports Days. Details for all these activities and events have already been sent to parents. This academic year finishes on Friday 18th July at 12:20pm.

New Academic Year 2026-2027

Academic Year 2026 - 2027 begins with two staff INSET days on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September. Year 7 and Year 11 students only will return on Thursday 3rd September, with all remaining students returning on Friday 4th September. These first few days are essential for setting up the academic year successfully so please ensure your child returns to school on the correct day.

In September we will continue with our recent focus on expectations around uniform, punctuality to both school and lessons, and insisting that mobile phones are not used in school at any time.

Uniform and appearance

Thank you very much for your support in this area. Please continue to support our [uniform policy](#) by checking that your child is well presented and that they have the correct grey school trousers, tailored shorts or skirt. We have worked with our students to identify specific skirts which are both affordable and durable. The Asda options are a 2 pack for £8 and the M&S ones 2 pack for £10-16, depending on size.

[Grey Permanent Pleat Girls School Skirt 2 Pack | School | George at ASDA](#)[2pk Girls' Pleated School Skirts \(2-18 Yrs\) | M&S Collection | M&S](#)

These are the only skirts that students are permitted to wear. Leggings of any sort must not be worn. Students are allowed to wear tights of between 40-60 denier should they wish to. Grey or black socks may also be worn – no white socks are permitted. White shirt or blouse (with a top button), school tie and school jumper remained unchanged. Coats should be of one single plain colour and can be worn to school but must not be worn once in the school building.

Shoes must be black and preferably polishable. No boots, crocs or other coloured shoes are permitted.

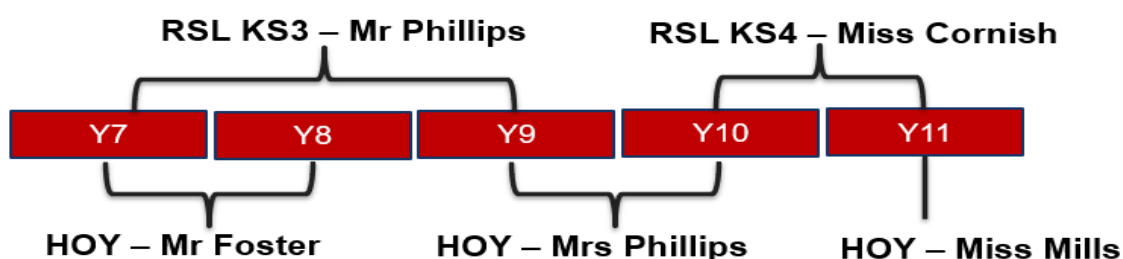
As you will know the PE kit is changing. We are in a transitional period where new Year 7 students and anyone joining the school will be expected to purchase the new PE T-shirt and PE $\frac{1}{4}$ zip training top. [Patchway Training T Shirt-BUWH](#) All other existing students can buy the new PE kit, and this will become compulsory by September 2027. Our new Year cohort will be trialling wearing PE kit to school on the days they have PE lessons. If this pilot is successful, we will roll this out to the rest of the school during the year – I will of course communicate this well in advance.

Uniform is essential to ensure socio-economic equity and plays a key part in developing pride in our young people and a sense of belonging at Patchway Community School. I know you will support us in ensuring the highest standards are adhered to and thank you in advance of this. If your child has outgrown their uniform, please do donate it to our send hand uniform shop – just bring clean uniform into reception.

Staffing

I am delighted to inform you that we are once again fully staffed with teachers for September. This means that other than staff illness your child's lessons will be taught by specialist teachers. This together with our ongoing development of teaching and learning will ensure the quality of teaching continues to improve at Patchway.

Additionally, there are some changes to the pastoral structure and personnel. We are moving to a structure where each year group has a non-teaching Head of Year and a Raising Standards Leader, who will work together to ensure that your child is supported socially and emotionally but also challenged academically to fulfil their potential.



****Pastoral Intervention Lead – Mr Plummer***

Attendance

Attendance is a key priority at Patchway as it is at most other schools. It is essential your child attends school every day. Research shows very clearly that absence from school limits academic progress but also negatively affects confidence and anxiety. It is also clear from data analysis that attendance patterns at the start of the academic year progress throughout the year. If your child is seriously ill or injured, please do contact their Head of Year for further guidance, otherwise please do ensure they attend every day. If your child is too ill to attend, we use Studybugs to ensure communication of absence is easy for parents. The Studybugs app can be downloaded for free.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful summer break and I look forward to welcoming students back in September.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Stephen Kneller
Headteacher