SGS PEGASUS SCHOOL

SGS Pegasus school NEWSLETTER Fortnightly Update

Volume #3

WELCOME TERM 1 09/10/2026

Attendance this year: 86.7%

Attendance this week: 87.65%

Attendance target: 94%

From the Headteacher

There has been a wonderful sense of energy and momentum across Pegasus over the past fortnight, with countless opportunities for students, families and staff to engage, develop and grow together.

A community inspiring ambitious futures

SGS PEGASUS SCHOOL

The Importance of Good Attendance

Regular attendance at school gives children and young people the best opportunity to thrive. Every day in school provides valuable opportunities to build relationships, practise communication skills, develop independence and access learning experiences that cannot always be replicated elsewhere.

For children and young people with SEND, attendance can be particularly important. Consistent routines, predictable environments and strong relationships with trusted adults help to reduce anxiety and support emotional wellbeing. Research consistently shows that good attendance is linked to improved educational outcomes, greater independence, stronger social development and better long-term life chances. We understand that some pupils face genuine barriers to attending school, and our approach will always be supportive and understanding. By working together, we can ensure every child has the best opportunity to reach their full potential.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Arrangements

Keeping our site safe is everyone's responsibility.

The busiest times on site are between **8:50am and 9:10am** and **2:50pm and 3:10pm**, when taxis are arriving and departing. During these times, taxis must be given priority so that pupils can enter and leave school safely and efficiently.

Unfortunately, we have noticed an increasing number of parents and carers driving through the main gates during these periods rather than parking at the Patchway Sports Centre. Unless you have specifically arranged to drop off or collect your child from the school entrance, vehicles should not be entering through the main gates at these times.

If the situation does not improve, we may have no option but to temporarily close the gates during these periods to ensure the safety of everyone on site. This is not an ideal solution, as it would mean children spending longer waiting on transport, but safety must remain our priority.

We would also like to remind all drivers that the maximum speed limit on site is 5mph. Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe.

Free School Meals:
It's Always Worth Checking

Many families are surprised to discover that they may be eligible for Free School Meals. Even if you are unsure whether you qualify, it is always worth submitting an application.

Not only could your child receive a freshly prepared meal every day, cooked here on site by our catering team, but successful applications also provide additional funding to the school. This extra funding helps us invest in resources, interventions and support that benefit pupils across the school.

A few minutes spent checking eligibility could make a real difference both to your family and to our wider school community.

Here's the link from the South Glos website: South Glos LIFE | School meals

A Thank You to Our Fantastic Staff

Like many schools across the country, we continue to face significant challenges when it comes to recruiting and retaining staff. These challenges are particularly acute within specialist SEND settings, where the skills, expertise, patience and dedication required are exceptional.

Despite this, our staff continue to go above and beyond every day to provide outstanding support for our pupils. They build trusting relationships, celebrate successes, support children through difficult moments and work tirelessly to ensure every young person receives the education and care they deserve.

We recognise that conversations about children can sometimes feel emotional. As parents and carers, you rightly care deeply about your child's wellbeing and progress. However, we would like to remind everyone that school staff should always be treated with courtesy and respect. Sadly, in recent weeks we have experienced a number of occasions where staff have been spoken to in an unacceptable manner, including raised voices and disrespectful interactions. This has been particularly noticeable in some communications involving families of our younger pupils.

Our staff are committed professionals who care deeply about the children and young people they support. While we welcome questions, concerns and constructive discussions, aggressive or disrespectful behaviour towards staff is never acceptable. By working together respectfully, even when difficult conversations are needed, we can ensure positive outcomes for everyone involved, most importantly the children at the centre of everything we do.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we continue to build a school community where children, families and staff feel valued, respected and able to flourish.

A Reminder About Our Senior Support Coordinators (SSCs)

As a reminder, our Senior Support Coordinators (SSCs) are your key point of contact if you have any concerns, questions or need support. Families were introduced to the SSC team in our first newsletter of the year, but we wanted to take the opportunity to remind everyone of who oversees each group of classes.

For those familiar with mainstream schools, the SSC role is very similar to a Head of Year or Head of House. They work closely with pupils, staff and families to ensure that support is coordinated and concerns are addressed promptly. All our SSCs are also trained in safeguarding and are part of our Pegasus safeguarding team.

Josh Bowman (left) oversees Robin, Scarlet Ibis, Puffin, Sparrow and Golden Eagle classes.

Jordan Sealy (right) oversees Wagtail, Wren, Kestrel and Penguin classes.

Josh Danks (centre) oversees Starling, Goldfinch, Raven, Kingfisher and Woodpecker classes.

If you have any concerns or questions, your SSC should usually be your first point of contact. They are here to help and support both pupils and families.

Black History Month

October is **Black History Month**, a time to celebrate the achievements, contributions and experiences of Black people throughout British history and today. At Pegasus, we believe it is important that our pupils learn about people who have challenged injustice, created positive change and helped build the diverse society we live in. This year, all pupils will learn about the Bristol Bus Boycott, a story that many adults may not be familiar with, despite it being one of the most significant civil rights campaigns in British history. In 1963, the Bristol Omnibus Company refused to employ Black and Asian bus crews. In response, local community leaders and campaigners organised a boycott of the city's buses. Members of the public supported the campaign by refusing to use the bus service, and after several months of pressure the company was forced to change its policy. The boycott is widely recognised as an important moment in the fight against racial discrimination in the UK and helped pave the way for future equality legislation.

Pupils will also learn about the important role played by Roy Hackett, one of the leading figures behind the boycott. As a community activist and founding member of the West Indian Development Council, Roy worked tirelessly to challenge discrimination and bring people together in pursuit of equality. His determination, leadership and commitment to fairness helped secure a victory that would influence attitudes towards racial equality across the country.

As a school near Bristol, we are particularly proud to share this important part of our city's history with our pupils. Through activities and discussions tailored to the needs and ages of our children and young people, we will explore themes such as fairness, inclusion, courage and standing up for what is right. We hope that learning about the Bristol Bus Boycott will help our pupils understand how ordinary people can make an extraordinary difference when they work together to challenge unfairness and create positive change.

Parent/Carer Workshops

Following the success of previous opportunities to engage with families, we are delighted to launch the first of what we hope will be many parent and carer workshops this year.

Our first session will be hosted by Alex Caven, our Safeguarding Lead, and will focus on Online Safety. In an increasingly digital world, helping children and young people stay safe online is more important than ever, and Alex will share practical advice, guidance and resources that families can use at home.

The workshop will take place on 9 November at 1:30pm, with full details already shared by Kate Oram via Class Dojo. We'll be providing drinks and snacks, and we hope the session will also offer a valuable opportunity for parents and carers to meet one another, share experiences and strengthen our school community.

We're also delighted that our new Chair of Governors, Rhona, will be joining us to introduce herself and meet families. If you have ever considered becoming more involved in the strategic leadership of the school by joining our Local Governing Body, this would be a great opportunity to have an informal conversation with Rhona about what the role involves and how you could contribute.

We look forward to welcoming as many parents and carers as possible and hope this will be the first of many opportunities for us to learn, share and work together.

be available so that you can join online.

Family Engagement

Kate Oram has set up pathway group chats on Class Dojo, this includes all parents from your pathway. Please message her individually if you wish to discuss

Thank you to everyone that completed the survey.

Here's some feedback:

What some parents said	What we are doing
Did not know where to find policies	You will find our policies on our website: menu; Policies. The link below will take you to this: Policies | SGS Pegasus School
The newsletter being too long and too short sometimes	We always aim for the newsletter to be relevant and needed. It is important that we do not over-do the information which will result in parents feeling overwhelmed by this.
More trips and activities in the community	As part of Kate and Rachael's role, we are organising trips/outings for all classes. We'll be reaching out for parent volunteers to support us with this. Always keep a look out.
Better communication with parents	We always hope to have great communication with yourselves. Classes aim to share information via class dojo as well as phone calls and messages. If you feel you do not get this, please message me (Kate) and I can manage this.
Barriers to attending workshop	We are offering the sessions online too, this will hopefully support you to engage and gain information if you cannot attend.
Events to raise money eg: cake sale etc	I am in the process of setting up a school council which will consist of 2 students from each pathway. Within the school council, we'll discuss fundraising (what we can do, when and how etc)

Key Dates for Next Term

- Monday 9th November – Safeguarding Workshop @ 1:30pm
- Monday 23rd November – Navigating your child's SEND Workshop @ 1:30pm
- Wednesday 2nd December – Aladdin Panto
- Wednesday 9th December – Christmas Dinner (bookable via Parent Pay) *
- Friday 11th December – Christmas Jumper Day *
- Wednesday 16th December – Family Afternoon @ 1:30pm in classrooms
- Friday 18th December – Non Uniform Day *

*Student only events

Reminders!!!

Nut-Free School

Please remember that Pegasus is a nut-free school. To help keep all members of our community safe, we ask that families do not send any food products containing nuts into school. We greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that school remains a safe environment for everyone.

Mobile Phones

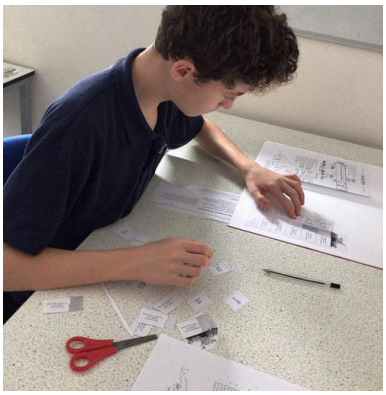
A reminder that all pupil mobile phones must be handed in during morning registration, with no exceptions. This expectation helps us to maintain a safe, focused and positive learning environment throughout the school day. Thank you for your support in reinforcing this routine with your child before they arrive at school. Department for Education statutory guidance states that "all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default" and that pupils should not have access to mobile phones during the school day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support as we work together to build a community inspiring ambitious futures for every child and young person at Pegasus.

Marie Cooper

Headteacher

Pegasus School



A community inspiring ambitious futures

SGS PEGASUS SCHOOL