

Attendance at Akiva is good, but we still constantly try to improve

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Overall absence	4.4	5.03	4.0	4.2	3.0	3.0
Persistent 15%	0.4	2.6	1.2	1.1	0.0	0.0

4 FPNs Dec

1 FPN Feb
4 FPNs Apr
1 FPN June
1 FPN July

Providing timely and clear information

Susy Stone - Outlook Web A Akiva School - Term Dat

akivaschool.org/Term-Dates

- Cognitive Education Development Unit, University of Exeter

TERM DATES

Click to view the School Term Dates ([2015-2016](#)) and School Term Dates ([2016-2017](#))

2015-2016 Term Dates

In order to accomodate Pesach we have had to deviate from local authority holiday dates.

Parents with children at other schools should take this into account when making arrangements for the Pesach holiday.

RELATED PAGES

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LATEST NEWS

17th Nov Akiva Ranked as the Highest Per


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I'm Cortana. Ask me anything.

22:01 06/01/2016

Being explicit

Regularly providing information which can be referred to

FROM THE HEADTEACHER 
www.akivaschool.org
17th December 2010
10th Tevet 5771

The 10th of Tevet is one of four fast days marking the departure of Jacob from the land of Eilat and the second Temple period. It commemorates the beginning of the Babylonian exile during the first Temple period. It is a time to reflect on the future.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We wish everybody a happy and peaceful holiday.
We return to school at 8:40am on Tuesday 4th January.
Half Term is the 21st to 28th February and term ends for the children on Friday 8th April.

You are reminded that holidays booked in term time will be considered unauthorised absence. Special leave is only granted for exceptional circumstances and must be requested at least 3 weeks in advance, giving as much evidence as possible to explain why the absence could not be during the school holidays.

I want to thank parents for your support in making Akiva one of the best performing schools in the local authority for school attendance.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE TABLES 2010

The attached letter about the outcomes for 2010 contains very pleasing information about how well our children are doing!

WEBSITE PHOTOS

On Thursday January 6th photographer Isaac Strong will be taking photos around the school so that we can select some for our website. We will then check that you have given permission before using any of his photos.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 6th January Y2 Information event about KS2 SATs 7pm
Tuesday 11th January 5-6pm and Thursday 12th January 6-7pm Parent consultation evenings
Shabbat 22nd January 27 Havdallah in Pyjamas
Shabbat 29th February 28 Havdallah in Pyjamas
Sunday 13th February Mrs Oxenham Choir perform at the Jewish School Choirs Festival at the Arts Depot
Wednesday 16th February Meeting for Y6 parents about Israel Trip 7.30pm
Friday 4th March Y5 Christmas Super
Wednesday 10th March Y6 Information event about KS2 SATs 7.30pm
Week beginning Monday 14th March National Science Week
Friday 18th March Read Noise Day and Fun Events
Tuesday 23rd April Posh Workshop for parents pm

FROM THE HEADTEACHER 
www.akivaschool.org
Monday 10th June 2012
28th Sivan 5772

THANK YOU TO THE PTA

For the gift of bookmarks for staff and children before half term to mark the Jubilee

For funding the Espresso learning tool for use in our classrooms. This wonderful resource will give us access to a wealth of visual media and interactive resources.

The PTA invites you to an end of year coffee morning for parents and carers on Friday 6th July after drop off. The event will include a fond farewell to Mrs Oxenham and Mrs Gordon to mark their long and valued service to Akiva.


Pitch in and Help!

Watch our Olympic games flourish.
Can you think of some super foods that we might grow?
If you can give up an hour or two once a term to help in the garden please let Mrs Gordon know by emailing the school office.

As part of our learning about the Olympics we are thinking about the contribution that good food and good health make to sporting success.

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

The Summer Term ends on Friday 20th July. Holidays during term time are not permitted and we expect every child to attend regularly and on time until and including that date. Thank you for your co-operation.

FROM THE HEADTEACHER 
Friday 24th May
15th Sivan 5773

SCHOOL IS CLOSED FROM MONDAY 27th to FRIDAY 31st MAY
We wish you a very happy Half Term Holiday!

TOUGHENING UP ON ATTENDANCE

Headteachers have this week been advised of amendments to the Pupil Registration and Penalty Notice regulations effective from September 2013. These changes represent a toughening of the Department for Education's stance on leave of absence with the inference that sanctions are an essential part of the fight against unnecessary absence from school.

The Pupil Registration Regulations amendment will prohibit head teachers from granting leave of absence save in exceptional circumstances and only when an application is made in advance. The amendment removes mention of holidays from the regulations.

The Penalty Notice Regulations are amended so that Fixed-penalty notices (FPN) will have to be paid within 21 days for the lower £60 rate to apply, and allows just seven days for payment of the higher rate of £120. This reduces the possible payment period from 42 to 28 days.

The term dates are on the school website. You must familiarise yourself with these and make them known to your wider family.

Jackie Oberman has decided to leave the education sector. Today is her last day at Akiva. We thank her for her contribution to the school over the past two years and wish her all the best.


While the recruitment process is underway, her work is being covered by other staff so please continue to communicate with the office in the normal way.

Confidential items and communications with staff should go to info@akivaschool.org. Notification of absence, lateness, changes in pick up arrangements, general queries etc should go to office@akivaschool.org.

Diary dates for the second half of the term are all on the online diary at www.akivaschool.org.

Thank you to Andrea Smolian, Sue Haber and their team for a very successful Fashion Show. Read all about it at <http://www.akivaschool.org/news/2013/05/fashion-show/>.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Summer Fair on Sunday July 14th.

FROM THE HEADTEACHER 
Friday 12th September
9th Tishri 5774

Yom Kippur begins on Friday night 13th September

School will close at 1.30pm on Thursday 13th September.

We wish you "G'mar Chetima Tov" - this means may you and this period of 10 days Hashanah, the Ten Days of Repentance and Yom Kippur with a 'good signature' (in the Book of Life).

STOP AND DROP REMINDERS

As ever we are grateful to parents for the vital part you play in ensuring that children can arrive safely in the morning.

The role of the security staff at this time should be as look outs, so we need 3 parents every morning. If you cannot do your duty please swap with another parent in your class.

Parents on duty please report to the gatehouse when you arrive so that they can call the school if we are short.

Please drive down as far as possible towards Windermere Avenue.

Do not U-turn on East End Road.

Do not park on the double yellow lines at the top of Windermere Avenue.

The weather is becoming more autumnal. Please ensure that your child has a coat or jacket clearly labelled with his/her name, for outdoor play.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Completion is scheduled for September 25th.

Term Dates

With the newsletter this week we are resending the term dates for 2013/14 and for 2014/15. This is to help you to plan trips and celebrations, particularly with family overseas, during holiday periods.

As indicated last year the regulations on school attendance have become much tighter and the school has a duty to apply the law in this regard. This means that fines will be applied for breaches of the parental duty to ensure regular school attendance.

For this academic year please note that both Pesach and Shavuot fall within holiday periods. If you observe 8th day Pesach (Tuesday 22nd April) please do not arrange to be abroad on that day because we return to school for the summer term on Wednesday 23rd April.

The Akiva sponsored kids' Bike and Scooter Ride will take place on Sunday, 4 October at 9pm in Victoria Park, NA. And parents, we will need marshals and helpers on the day too - please contact Zeeva Dolman (zeeva@akivaschool.org) or Dian Zeffe (dian@akivaschool.org) to volunteer.

Standing firm and consistent

Dear Mr and Mrs

I am writing in response to your application for special leave of absence for the 23rd and 24th April 2014.

The dates for holidays in 2013/14 have been on the school website for over a year and have been sent to you on more than one occasion since then. In addition to this, in my newsletters on September 13th and December 20th I specifically highlighted these days in relation to ensuring that children would be back in time to start school at the beginning of the summer term.

Your form is not a request, but rather states that you will be flying back on the 24th and I am therefore requesting from the Education Welfare team that they impose a fixed penalty notice. You will be hearing directly from them

Dear Mrs. Stone,

Thank you for your email.

In the 7 years thatwas at Akiva and in the 4 and a half years has been at Akiva I have never asked for a single day's absence. I understand you have a system and regulations and I know that fines are issued however both my children's attendance has been exemplary and I have been honest with you and the school in all communications at all times! We have never abused or taken advantage of the systems in place and I was hoping that under the circumstances you could perhaps show a bit of leniency.

Seeking confirmation and support

Your thoughts on this one?

To me it's a completely open and closed case - I warned, they chose to ignore - the loA form says We are going to Israel for Pesach and our flight back is on the 24th.....!

Couldn't be more obvious!

Trevor Orr Education Welfare Team Manager

Exploding myths – it's not cool to miss the end of term!

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



24th July 2013
17th Av 5773

www.akivaschool.org

AKIVA SCHOOL

I am sending a letter with this newsletter outlining successes in 2012/13 and some development for 2013/14 which I hope you will read at your leisure during the holiday break

Just as we thought this year could not get any more interesting or exciting, imagine who dropped in to our Sports Celebration Assembly!



One year on from his Olympic silver medal winning performance on the pommel horse, Strictly Come Dancing winner Louis Smith, who last visited in 2008, congratulated teams and individuals and thanked our amazing coaches. He spoke to the children about his career in gymnastics and answered questions from Y6.

LUNCH PAYMENTS

As you are aware, we will no longer be sending lunch invoices to parents. The lunches for the whole Autumn Term 2013 will be £165.00. Any current credit/outstanding debit on your child/children's account will be indicated on their online payment account. The online payment facility will not show that you owe £165.00 until the beginning of term. However, parents can still pay this amount online during the Summer break. If you have any queries regarding the lunch payments or your online account please do not hesitate to call Caroline Swaine in the office. If you wish to pay by cheque, please contact Caroline Swaine via email address office_support@akivaschool.org for your child/ren's balance. We do, however, encourage all parents to avail yourselves of our online payment option. We request that all accounts are settled at the beginning of every term. As per usual, two weeks WRITTEN notice is required if you wish to discontinue school meals.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Some of you will have received a call from Fairplay Barnet apologising for the fact that they are unable to proceed at this stage with an after school club in September. Earlier this year when we conveyed the parent body, 43 people expressed an interest in the club. We proceeded on this basis and right up until this week we and our Fairplay partners were actively pursuing the project; they had identified a leader and all the necessary paperwork was in place. However, expressions of interest translated into very few firm bookings. Fairplay were willing to start with smaller numbers in the hope of expanding, but there were so few as to present too high a risk in going ahead. Fairplay are very disappointed not to be able to proceed, as are we. I would like to hear from parents who would be interested in working with me to see if we can keep the proposal alive for the near future.

We wish you all an amazing holiday. Thank you so much for your gifts, cards and kind Thank You's. We look forward to seeing everyone back safely at Akiva on Tuesday 3rd September. Can I also remind you that the first consultation evenings will be on Monday 9th September (5-8pm) and Wednesday 11th September (4-7pm). All other dates are on the online diary.



Good habits from the start

ATTENDANCE AT AKIVA A guide for Reception parents

We thank you for working in partnership with us to provide the best possible opportunities for your child at Akiva

Your Statutory Duty

Parents and carers have a statutory duty to ensure that children attend school on time every day that school is in session. While this duty applies from a child's fifth birthday, we believe it is important that good attendance patterns are established from the start.



Recording Attendance

Attendance is recorded in the register which is taken at 8.55am and at 1pm each day. The day is divided into two sessions. On your child's annual report in July we report the number of sessions attended against the total number of am and pm sessions and the resulting attendance percentage. We seek to maintain a school attendance percentage of over 96%.

Authorised and Unauthorised Attendance

Apart from illness there are very few reasons for which an absence may be authorised. We ask that appointments are made, as far as possible, outside school hours. We recognise that medical appointments may be allocated within school time. These must be notified in advance, together with the appointment card/letter, using the leave of absence form which you can download from the website.

Special or Exceptional Leave

There are very few situations which can be authorised as special or exceptional leave. If you believe that an absence falls in this category you must make a request in writing or arrange to meet the headteacher at least three weeks in advance and provide any written documentation that will support your request. No arrangements should be made before or unless permission is granted. Term dates are sent to you and posted on the website over a year in advance. You should share these with family members abroad so that family get-togethers can be organised during school holidays.

Jewish Holidays

In line with our progressive ethos we close Akiva for two days for Rosh Hashanah and for one day on 1st day Sukkot, Simchat Torah (7th day Sukkot), 1st and 7th day Pesach and 1st day Shavuot. Families who observe 2nd days must request these as authorised religious holidays. We aim to give clear advice each year about how the school calendar will impact on the possibility of travelling to spend holidays with family abroad. Often there is little flexibility in this regard.



Holidays in Term Time

You should not arrange holidays in term time. This includes extending school holidays. If you take holiday in term time you risk a substantial fine. The fine is collected by the local authority and does not benefit the school financially. We strongly advise that you inform relatives about term dates if there is a chance they may book a holiday for your family in term time as a treat.

Punctuality

It is important that you establish patterns of excellent punctuality for your child from the start. Stop and Drop and our 8.40am 'soft start' are designed to support you in this regard.

Changing the culture

80 East End Road
Finchley, London
N3 2SY
Tel: 020 8349 4980
Fax: 020 8349 4959
Email: admin@hakivaschool.org
Head Teacher: Susy Stone MA

Policy of Absence

Policy before requesting leave of
absence from school, you are agreeing
to make travel plans before receiving
leave, to attend school, or you may be
in exceptional circumstances, you may be
excluded from school.

Education (Pupil Registration)
2010.

I/We request leave of absence for: Andrew M. Stone Class: 5G
From: 14.04.16 To: 15.04.16 No. of days absence 2

Reason for request
We are planning to visit family in South Africa over Pesach where
has a grandfather, Aunts and cousins whom we haven't seen since 2012.
A new cousin, a baby girl, has just been born to my sister's son Daniel and they are
postponing the baby naming to Saturday 16th April for our arrival. Thanks.

I attach the following supporting documentation: PHOTO OF NEW BABY GIRL

The above trip has been authorised by the Head Teacher. ✓

Comments: Exceptionally granted.

Signed: Susy Stone Date: 08.01.16
Susy Stone – Head Teacher