



Tuesday, 7th September 22023

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: School Attendance

Good attendance at school is vital for your child's education and means they can make the most of all aspects of school life. Excellent attendance at school allows a child to have the best possible start in life.

There are lots of reasons why a child should attend school:

- To learn
- To build confidence and self-esteem
- To understand responsibility
- To develop new skills
- To grow as individuals
- To make new friends, have fun and develop life skills.

Primary school children rely on their parents to make sure that they attend school. As a parent, you are legally responsible for making sure that your child gets a full-time education. Once your child starts school, you're responsible for making sure that they attend regularly and are not taken out of school unnecessarily.

Make sure your child has good attendance.

- From starting at nursery, teach your child the importance of good attendance and getting to school on time every day.
- Show an interest and ask about what they're doing at school.
- Encourage them to take part in school activities.
- Encourage them to tell you about any problems they may have at school - let their teacher or headteacher know about anything serious.
- Don't let them take time off school for minor ailments - particularly those which would not stop you from going to work.
- Where possible, make appointments after school, at weekends, or during school holidays.
- Try to take family holidays outside of term time.

We understand that some parents may feel anxious when their child feels ill. However, some childhood illnesses, such as coughs and colds, are a normal part of growing up and children are better coming into school if they are able to with these. Your child's wellbeing is the most important thing to us and we will always contact you if we have any concerns or your child becomes unwell at school.

You can find further information regarding infections and illnesses and whether your child can be in school by following the below link: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health/a-z/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/)

All holidays during term time are unauthorised and therefore, will result in a fixed penalty notice be issued by the local authority (BMBC).

As a school we have always tried to avoid issuing fines, however unfortunately due to an increasing number of holidays taken in term time and an increase in the number of persistent absences, this is something we will be implementing from September 2023.

Persistent absenteeism from school, where a child has an attendance below 80%, may also result in the involvement of the Education Welfare Office and or a fixed penalty notice.

As a school, we will always strive to work with and support families to improve their child's attendance, including through attendance meetings before these actions are taken.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance, please contact school and arrange to speak to me.

Kind regards

Miss V Brooks

Parent Support Advisor