



Working Together to Improve Attendance

Autumn term 2023-2024: Issue 1

A is for Attendance!

Welcome

Welcome to our first attendance newsletter of the year. The aim is to promote the importance of attendance across the school community. It is important that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance at school so that they can enjoy their learning reach their full potential both emotionally and academically.

Good attendance is important because...

Statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school and studies show that children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically. With the focus and development on the curriculum that has taken place at school then children who are absent will find gaps in their sequential knowledge.

Working Together

We will be working with you to keep you updated on your child's attendance by providing you with this information at key points throughout the year.

We will inform you of your child's attendance should it go below 96% and find ways to work together to support your child's attendance. Information and guidance including the school attendance policy can be found [here](#) on our Attendance Page.

Green – Good attendance 96%-100%

Amber – Requires improvement 92%-95.9%

Red – Causing concern 90%-93%

Persistent Absentee below 90%

Whole School Attendance for 2022-23 was:

95.7%



Whole School attendance target for 2023-24: **97%**

Congratulations to all the pupils who had 96% or better attendance last academic year.

Certificates will be given out very soon.

You are Attendance Superstars!



Currently, we celebrate attendance in our weekly assemblies and the class/es with the best attendance each week receive 10 minutes extra play. Certificates and rewards are also rewarded to those pupils with good attendance (96% or higher) and for excellent attendance (100%).

This half term, our School Council will be reviewing our rewards for attendance and voting on different ideas.

Absence through illness

We understand and appreciate that children can become ill and that it is not always easy to decide whether to send them into school or keep them at home, so to help you with this decision we have devised a useful reference guide. If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school office before 9.00am with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. If we do not hear from you, we will ring you to find out why your child is not in school. You will also find further advice from the NHS [here](#).

Medical Appointments

We request that, where possible, routine medical and dentist appointments are arranged outside school hours as these appointments will affect your child's percentage attendance. We do understand that some appointments, such as hospital consultations, are not always possible to arrange outside of school hours. However if your appointment time allows your child to come to school for afternoon registration, this will have a positive impact on their attendance figure.

Going to school - Why it's so important!

Lots of people think that missing the odd day at school here and there can't do much harm. But even taking a short amount of time can be a problem. Your child might fall behind in their work and not be able to catch up. If there are gaps in their knowledge they will suffer when school assessment time comes around. There could be other problems too; children who miss school are missing out on the social side of things which affects their ability to make and keep friends and it can dent their confidence to

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Let us know as soon as your child is absent and each day thereafter
- Try to avoid making appointments during term time or normal school hours
- Do not allow your child to stay off school unless it is unavoidable
- Provide medical evidence for appointments attended.
- Do not plan to take your child out of school for a holiday during term time

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE?

- Talk to your child, it may be a simple reason
- Talk to your child's class teacher or a member of staff especially if our child appears to becoming anxious or worried about leaving you or about coming to school

Further guidance and support will be provided over the year and is also available [here](#).

RED - STAY AT HOME

Sickness & Diarrhoea - 48 hours must have elapsed before a child can return to school from the last episode.

AMBER - SEEK ADVICE

Headache, Feeling Sick, Tummy Ache

Children often feel unwell if they are anxious, so if in doubt contact the school for advice.

GREEN - COME TO SCHOOL

Mild cough, Cold, Sore Throat, Feeling Tired

We will always contact you if your child is ill during the school day.

Holidays and Absence during term time



Absence will not be authorised during term time except in exceptional circumstances. It is very important that all parents and carers understand that children with unauthorised absences, including holidays, and unexplained absences are at risk of receiving a Fixed Penalty Notice from Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Thank you for your support in helping to raise our school attendance. If you would like any support or advice on attendance or punctuality, please speak to your child's class teacher, Mrs. Williams (attendance lead) or Mrs. Wetton (Headteacher).