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A dedicated community working together, nurturing a safe, happy school where all children can achieve their potential

March 2023

Dear Families,

We want to take this opportunity to reiterate the role of the Standards Leaders and how we focus on improving school attendance. We want to work in partnership with families to improve our whole school attendance and persistent absence rates, to ensure the children make the most of every opportunity at school and meet their full potential.

The expectation is that children attend school every day and it is the parent's legal responsibility to ensure that they do attend every day. Each half-term we meet with our school's Inclusion Officer (IO) to review the attendance of each child and look particularly into patterns of absence and children whose attendance is a cause for concern. When children first start school they will encounter new sets of bugs and some children will be absent with genuine illness, but hopefully over the year they will build up resilience and their attendance will improve.

Each week in assembly we celebrate the achievement of the class with the highest rate of attendance. At the end of the whole term, we celebrate 100 % attendance by providing Certificates and a prize. While the majority of children are on track, there are a number who are below this level, and a small minority whose attendance is already below 90%; this is considered by the government as **persistent absence**.

100% Attendance	Well done, your child's attendance is outstanding!
96% - 99.9%	Well done, your child is on target to achieve a very good attendance rate.
92% - 95.9%	Your child's attendance is just below the target of 96%, please try hard to attend school each day to improve this.
90% - 91.9%	Your child's attendance is just above the persistent absence category, please try hard to come to school every day to keep attendance as high as possible.
Below 90%	Your child has been absent a lot from school since September and their attendance, will be closely looked at in the meetings with the Inclusion Officer. If your child has further absences from school due to hospital appointments or illness, please send in copies of appointment card and prescriptions. We will follow up low attendance with parents regularly.

Please come to school every day. If below 90%, your child has been absent for at least 20 days from school since September 2022 and their attendance will be closely monitored in meetings with the Inclusion Officer. It is at this point that you may be referred to another agency. If your child has further absences from school due to hospital appointments or illness, please send in copies of the appointment card, a screenshot from the NHS App and/or prescriptions. We will follow up low attendance with parents regularly and we are checking that evidence of sickness and appointments has been provided. We politely request that you book your child's doctor/dentist/optician appointments and music/dance exams for the end of the school day or in the school holidays.

Attendance at school has a considerable impact on academic achievement long term. Studies have shown that children with low attendance, particularly missing 20 or more days per year, go on to achieve fewer exam passes at the age of 16 which will impact their opportunities and earning potential later in life.

Thank you for working with us to give your child the best possible start and establish good routines in their early school experience. If you have concerns about your child's attendance or would appreciate advice or support, please come and talk to us or get in touch via the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Marwick



Miss C Ellis