



# Summer term Attendance Newsletter

Dear Families,

Thank you to you all for your efforts in supporting our school attendance during this difficult time. Attendance in the Autumn term was an incredible 96.3%, above the national average of 96%. This did of course drop in Spring term to 95%, with partial school closure and a variety of reasons for absence. Now that all children are back in school, we would appreciate your support in improving this figure over the next term.

## Appointments

Ideally, appointments should be booked out of school hours. However, we appreciate that this is not always possible. **If your child has an appointment during school hours, please bring them to school either before their appointment or afterwards.** Please also provide office staff with proof of the appointment.

## Absences from School

It is the law to attend school.

Poor attendance has a detrimental impact on pupils learning and over a 5-year period a pupil whose attendance is 90% will have missed half of a school year – this is a lot of lost education!

'Persistent absence' is classed as anything under 90% -

**Parents may be prosecuted if their child's attendance falls below 90%.**

If your child is not attending school for any reason you must contact school to inform staff of the reason why.

Attendance is checked weekly by our Education Welfare Officer Dawn Roe. Evidence of illness may be requested for pupils with attendance below 96%.

**It is essential you contact school so that we know your children are safe.**

## Leave of absence during term time

Leave of absence during term time will not be authorised unless there is exceptional circumstance. If you do require a leave of absence please telephone the school office to speak to Mr Nicholls. Leave will be unauthorised if it is a holiday and you are likely to receive a fine from the Local Authority. Currently the fine is £60 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days. This increases to £120 per parent, per child and if further non-payment within 28 days, court action may be taken.

Local Authority regulations state that leave of absence applications should be made at least 4 weeks prior to leave taking place and if it is for a holiday, ideally before the holiday is booked.