

29th November 2021

Dear parent/carer,

I write to you today with a brief letter regarding attendance / absence in school.

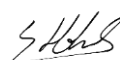
Since the start of the academic year, we know that COVID-19 related absence has continued to play a significant role in the absence of pupils at school, particularly in KS1. Our attendance during the first half term was well below our target (97%) and current national average at just 92.8%. Although we know that when we take out COVID related absence that figure does increase, we are still below our attendance target, and a significant amount of this is due to term-time holidays.

Again, I appreciate that COVID-19 has played a significant role in the reason for these holiday requests, with holidays that have had to be cancelled needing to be re-booked and, in some cases, taken before the end of the year due to parents' holiday entitlement or the risk of losing the holiday / money etc. I fully understand the difficulty surrounding this, and like you, know how valuable family time is during a time when things have really been brought into perspective due to the pandemic.

However, I am also conscious that children have missed out on a significant amount of learning over the past two academic years, and any time missed in school will only continue to impact negatively on this. What I must also make our school community aware of, is that school absence data plays a significant role during a school's Ofsted inspection. It would be a huge shame for the children, staff and our whole school community if the outcome of an inspection was impacted on negatively due to absence data, despite all the other wonderful things going on in school in terms of the quality of education we provide.

I therefore ask, that going forward into 2022, that all parents/carers are mindful of our need to improve attendance during the remainder of this year, primarily to ensure children are not missing out on any further learning. We are in the process of launching a revised approach to celebrating good attendance in school, with certificates, badges and rewards.

If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to get in touch and thank you for your continued support.



Mr Holmes
Headteacher