

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Attendance / Absence

Dear parent/carers,

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

Last academic year, we know that COVID-19 related absence continued to have a significant impact on pupils' attendance in school. Our school attendance last year was well below our target (97%) and current national average at just 94.2%. 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. Last year, only 28% of pupils in school had 97%+ attendance, with a significant sized group missing the equivalent of 1 day every 2 weeks. As a whole school community, we must push for this to significantly improve this year.

I do appreciate that the pandemic over the past few years 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.

However, I am also very conscious that many children, not a small group, have missed out on a significant amount of learning again last year following two school years of very disruptive learning prior to this. Any time missed in school this year will only continue to impact negatively on this and compound any gaps in learning. 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 this new school year, that all parents/carers are mindful of our need to improve attendance. Here is a link to our attendance policy, which also clarifies the process and criteria for fixed penalty notices when taking holidays during term time: <https://tinyurl.com/23czvfb6> If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to get in touch and thank you for your continued support.



Mr Holmes  
Headteacher