

Dear Parents and Carers

There is much compelling evidence to show that the number of days spent in school has a huge and direct impact on academic and social success in all areas.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/just-one-day-off-can-hamper-childrens-life-chances>

This is what we want for each of our pupils and we aim to work closely with all our parents and families to ensure that every child is in school, learning with their friends, every day whenever possible.



Getting your child to school really matters. Did you know...

If in a school year, your child is late every day by...	Your child would have lost approximately...	or they would have missed approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

You should not take your child on holiday during term time.
Please encourage punctuality to maintain school attendance.
Remember Absence = Lost Opportunity

The tables here show the alarming reality of how days off and late arrivals at school can very quickly build up the number of hours, lessons and days missed and learning opportunities lost.



ABSENCE = LOST OPPORTUNITY

Did You Know... ?

If Your Child's Attendance During the School Year...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
was 95%	9 Days from School	50 Lessons
was 90%	19 Days from School	100 Lessons
was 85%	29 Days from School	150 Lessons
was 80%	38 Days from School	200 Lessons
was 75%	48 Days from School	250 Lessons

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters

Young children do occasionally need days off school if they are ill - if they have a sickness bug or a fever for example - but otherwise they should be in school. If you are unsure which how long is needed off school for some childhood illnesses, here is a useful government document. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/children-and-young-people-settings-tools-and-resources>

It is vital that no other days are taken off for birthdays, holidays, visits, trips etc so that the children can progress as much as possible and value the importance of attending school

each day. This should be the norm, except in very exceptional circumstances. If exceptional circumstances do occur, it is necessary, a month in advance, to meet with me to discuss the request for leave of absence, which will be authorised or unauthorised, as decided by myself and the Chair of Governors. All of this is outlined in our attendance policy, which is attached for your information.

The Infant school years are so important as your children learn the building blocks for reading, writing and social skills which set the foundations for all future learning and growth. It is also so difficult for our young children to catch up. We help as much as we can but regular lates and absences soon begin to have quite an impact on learning.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/children-and-young-people-settings-tools-and-resources>

We have already enlisted the assistance of the children, but we would now be incredibly grateful if you could help us too. Attached is a summary document stating clearly why every lesson counts and how you can help us. I have also attached our attendance policy for you to read and will forward a link to the Survey Monkey page where you can sign that you have read and agree with your part in the home school agreement.



Thank you, as always, for your support with this matter.

Kind regards

Alison Whittall