



INSPIRE
ILLUMINATE
IGNITE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well we have just 2 weeks left of this term! The first term of the year is always such an important one with everyone getting used to new routines and expectations, especially those pupils who have a new teacher this year, which is in fact the majority of the school.

I want to take this opportunity to discuss Attendance with you all. As I am sure many of you are aware, Attendance has been a huge focus for the Government and over the course of the summer holidays, new legislation came into effect. There are clear rules that I have to keep to, and restrict my ability to authorise and not authorise certain absences.

As a school, we have to have a nominated Attendance Champion. In our small school that person is me. This means that I am monitoring attendance weekly and am actively trying to ensure that we as a school are doing everything we can to improve attendance. I want to ensure that we are working together, and supporting you as parents as much as we can. We do have a supporting ethos but at the same time an expectation that attendance remains high. In terms of the every day, it also means that at the end of every small term I will be sending out letters to parents of any pupils that are registering as persistently absent. It means that I will be arranging attendance meetings and discussing attendance with you as parents, and in some cases may be drawing up an attendance plan or adding to targets if your child already has a plan in place for another reason.

Persistently absent means that a pupil has less than 90% attendance. That means that on average a pupil is missing 1 session every week. 1 session is a morning or an afternoon.

Attendance has a direct impact on a pupils achievement within school, and this is an area that class teachers will be discussing with you as part of parents evenings if applicable.

Attendance is not only monitored at school level by me, but also at DOWMAT level and indeed at county council level.

So what do we need from you as parents? Ideally all of you to champion attendance as much as we do! :) The positives of being in school every day, are not only from learning but also social interactions with others. Support us by ensuring that all children that are well enough to be in school, are in every day. Try to ensure that holidays are taken outside of school time. Medical appointments should be taken outside of school time as much as possible– we know that this is not always possible but please try – or try and get them at the start or end of the day and let us know in advance so that we can mark the absence accordingly. If your pupil is absent please notify us every day of the absence before 9.30.a.m. If your child is deemed off for an unauthorised absence, then work that they are missing will be sent home over the course of the day from their class teacher. Please ensure that your child completes this missed work ,so that gaps in learning are limited.

If you are concerned about your child’s attendance and would like our support, if we have not reached out to you already, please reach out to us! We want to help as much as we can!

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this, well done if you have made it to the bottom, I hope you can see that it is a real focus for us and we want to work with you to help improve it!

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Hibell

Is my child too ill for school?

Please follow this link for advice:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Whole School Attendance:

92%

DfE set Target: 96%

Attendance Ladder

