



Balshaw Lane Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Hodgson

30th January 2025

Dear Parents,

In school we have a duty to monitor each child's attendance and punctuality across the year and we are asking for your support with this. Children do get poorly and we totally understand and agree that when they are ill, they need to be at home to recover and get better. When we monitor attendance, we totally take this into account and we have all the details we need regarding this. We also know that some of our children have a Medical Care Plan in place or that the child has a significant medical need which affects their attendance. Again, we totally understand and take this into account.

In order to help parents, we will send your child's attendance records out at the beginning of each term from our computer system – Sims. I am hoping that parents will find this useful to see the full picture and how this changes across the year. We are aware that the figure can look more significant after the first term as we haven't had a full year in school yet. But we do have high expectations for pupils' attendance and punctuality. Please find attached the data for your child from this academic year so far.

Aspirational Futures MAT believe that children's attendance (without a known medical condition which would prevent them achieving this) should be 97% minimum. A child becomes known as persistently absent if they miss 10% - at and below 90%. We have to inform the LA on a regular basis of the details of pupils who fail to attend regularly.

As a guide over the year:

- 97% means a child has missed 5 days of school.
- 95% means a child has missed 10 days of school
- 90% means a child has missed 20 days of school

Why is school attendance important?

Being in school is important to your child's academic achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. There is evidence to suggest that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to support children's educational, economic and social outcomes. Schools can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a contributes to better mental health and wellbeing. Attendance at school is crucial to prepare young people for successful transition to adulthood, and to support their longer term economic and social participation in society.

Good punctuality is also extremely important as it enables the children to have a calmer and more productive start to the day. The gates open at 8:45am so we hope children can aim for this time for arrival. All children should be in school before the gates lock at 8:55am and we appreciate that the majority of children already do this.

If parents need any support with attendance and punctuality please don't hesitate to ask. I am also here if you have any concerns or would like to talk anything through.

Many thanks for your support,

Best wishes,

Mrs C Hodgson



Be the change