

13th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Start of Term

It was lovely to see all of our children back in school last week after the Christmas break. As we start 2025, we would like to take this opportunity of highlighting the importance of regular school attendance for your child's academic success and overall development and thanking all parents for their support.

Why Attendance Matters?

Consistent attendance is a key factor in ensuring that pupils receive the full benefit of their education. When pupils attend school regularly, they are more likely to:

- 1. Achieve Academic Success:** Regular attendance helps pupils keep up with daily lessons leading to a better understanding and retention of areas of learning.
- 2. Develop Social Skills:** Being present in school allows pupils to interact with their peers, build friendships, and develop essential social and communication skills.
- 3. Build Good Habits:** Establishing a routine of regular attendance sets the foundation for good habits that will benefit pupils throughout their lives and prepare them for College and Jobs in the adult world.
- 4. Stay Engaged:** Pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to stay engaged and motivated, reducing the risk of falling behind or becoming uninterested in lessons.

How You Can Help?

As Parents and Carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child's education. Here are some ways you can help ensure good attendance:

- **Communicate the Importance:** Talk to your child about the importance of attending school every day and how it benefits their learning and future.
- **Monitor Attendance:** Keep track of your child's attendance and address any issues or patterns of absence promptly.
- **Set a Routine:** Establish a consistent daily routine that includes a regular bedtime and wake-up time to ensure your child is well-rested and ready for school.
- **Technology:** Limit the amount of time your child spends on their mobile phone, games console and social media to a reasonable amount and reduce the time prior to bedtime.
- **Stay Informed:** Stay in touch with your child's teachers and school staff to stay informed about their progress and any attendance concerns.

Is my child too ill for School?

We know it can be difficult deciding whether to keeping your child off school when they're unwell and we are aware that there are a lot of different illnesses and viruses around at present. As a school our benchmark is this: if your child is well enough to get out of bed, and can move around, they are probably fit enough to put their uniform on and attend school in order to access some learning. We will endeavour to look after them in school and will make reasonable adjustments in so far as these are practical to support them.

This helps to develop resilience and a '**can do**' attitude which will be useful for life after school and the world of work in later years. In addition, most secondary school aged children are usually responsible enough to self-medicate and can bring their own general medicine into school such as pain relief. To avoid disrupting teaching and learning this can be managed at break and lunch times. Medicine must never be shared with other pupils. The Pastoral and Office Teams are available to support with the administration of medicine if necessary.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK. which we at Balshaw's follow. These guidelines say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. The NHS has produced some guidance to help parents understand when their child can and cannot attend school which you may find useful:

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

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19>

Also see the NHS information sheet at the bottom of this letter for more advice on whether to keep your child off school.

Support Available

It is important that your child attends school regularly, however, we understand that there may be circumstances that make regular attendance challenging. Schools and the local authority are committed to working with families to address any barriers to regular attendance. If you have any concerns or need support, please do not hesitate to contact us at school on 01772 421009 or email attendance@balshaws.org.uk

I hope this letter explains our commitment to your child's learning and progress through excellent attendance and punctuality and helps you as parents to know what to aim for.

Your sincerely



Mrs A. M Wilson
Deputy Headteacher/Senior Attendance Champion



Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment.
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.