

As we come to the end of our first full term of the academic year 2025/26 we want to say a **HUGE** well done and thank you to all pupils who have achieved over 95% attendance so far this year. Over 605 pupils have achieved 95% attendance or above. Keep up the good work! **Attendance matters and is everyone's responsibility.**

We have had a great start to the academic year with whole school attendance at **95%** for the whole of the first half of the Autumn term. We have had **364** students who achieved **100% attendance for this half term** and **233 students who have gained 100% attendance for the whole 15 week term.** This is an absolutely outstanding achievement. Attending school every day is not easily achieved – it takes commitment and determination from both the student and their Parent/Carer. We also know how difficult this has been given the national picture with Flu, Norovirus and other winter viruses affecting families across the country. We are extremely proud to award all of those children with 100% attendance with a chocolate treat, an early lunch pass in the final week of term and a certificate at the end of this week.

Regular attendance at school is directly linked to exam performance which in turn leads to improved Post 16 outcomes and therefore better career prospects and life chances. Attending school on a regular basis is not only important academically, but also instrumental in acquiring life skills such as effective communication and social interaction. Research proves that there is a strong correlation between regular attendance and attainment and our aim is to raise awareness and highlight the benefit of school attendance whilst celebrating the achievements of our students.

Every day in school  
makes a difference  
to your child's future.

Speak to your school for support and advice on  
how best to improve your child's attendance.

**ATTENDANCE  
MATTERS**

DAYS OFF  
COST GOOD  
GRADES

Research suggests  
that each **17 days**  
**missed from school**  
your GCSE results will  
go down **ONE GRADE!**

## **Expectations of Attendance at Balshaw's—**

Ensure your child attends every day, on time, equipped and ready to learn

Contact school on the first morning of absence by 8:30am on 01772421009 or via email [attendance@balshaws.org.uk](mailto:attendance@balshaws.org.uk) and provide your reason for your child's absence and continue to contact the school each day of absence until your child returns to school

If contact is not made for an absence, it is recorded as unauthorised. The school is responsible for deciding if the absence is acceptable or not

Ensure medical appointments are made outside of school time. If this is not possible, your child needs to be in school prior to and after the appointment. We will need medical evidence upon their return

- Holiday requests during term time will not be authorised. Parents who take their children out of school for a holiday may be issued with an Education Penalty Notice
- Contact school if you are experiencing difficulty in getting your child into school
- Work with the school and any other agencies to resolve any difficulties which may affect regular school attendance

## 5 reasons why attending school is so important

1. Students have the right to an education
2. Parents/Carers have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school. Schools and Local Authorities have a duty to ensure that students take up this right.
3. There is a direct link between high student absence and low attainment in school.
4. Getting students to attend school regularly and be on time is an essential skill for life.
5. Poor attendance can lead to students being isolated from their friends, at risk of bullying, poor and unsettled behaviour, and in the worst situations anti-social behaviour.

**Attendance Matters**—If a your child does not attend school, or is not taking part in an approved educational activity, they are classed as ABSENT from school. This means that if your child is off school for any reason, even if they are ill or have medical permission to be off school, they are classed as ABSENT.

If your child is absent and we do not hear from you to report their absence we will need to complete a welfare check for your child. Equally, if your child is absent for 3 or more consecutive days we would also need to complete a home visit. We would contact you to arrange the visit or if we have not heard from you we would complete an unannounced visit to check on your child.

**100% Attendance = 190 days at school**  
**8 days absence is 96%**  
**12 days absence is 94%**  
**19 days absence is 90%**  
**29 days absence is 85%**

## DID YOU KNOW? - The impact of absence on learning

Attendance	Missed Days
100%	0
98%	Less than 4 days / 8 sessions
97%	Less than 5 days / 10 sessions (school target)
95%	Less than 10 days / 20 sessions
90%	20 days / 40 sessions
85%	27 ½ days / 55 sessions
80%	37 ½ days / 75 sessions

## What is classed as Persistent Absence? -

Persistent Absence is classed as absence that is over 10% of the academic year at any given time. Any student who has persistent absence will be monitored formally by the Attendance Officer, Heads of House and Form Tutors. The thresholds are set out below:

Close of first half-term: 3.5 days in total  
 Close of 2nd half-term: 7 days in total  
 Close of 3rd half-term: 10 days in total  
 Close of 4th half-term: 12.5 days in total  
 Close of 5th half-term: 15.5 days in total  
 Close of 6th half-term: 19 days in total

## **School Matters!**



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

## Is my child too ill for school?

We know that winter is one of the peak times for adults and children to come down with mild illnesses such as colds, coughs and sore throats. It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they are unwell, therefore we have sourced some NHS guidance to help you make the right decision.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/626669cb8fa8f523b7221b98/>