

2nd May 2024

Attendance 2023-4 – Summer Term update

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

Despite the weather, we are, unbelievably, in the Summer Term. This communication is to remind you about the Government's drive to improve overall school attendance. We thank you for sending your children to school on time every day so that we can ensure that they continue to receive excellent teaching from our dedicated team.

Just last week we received a communication from Gillian Keegan, the Education Secretary, and top of the list was attendance. The work with schools is starting to have impact and the data at the end of the Spring Term showed that there are fewer persistent absences nationally. At Castle Hill Primary School, we continue to have better than national average attendance and that is thanks to you for working in partnership with us. However, we are still below our target of 96%, so there is still more to do!

We have seen an increase, over the last few weeks, in requests for holidays. We would like to remind you that holidays will not be authorised, as per the guidance and our policy. Please also note that all other requests are authorised at the discretion of the school. We understand that there will be exceptional circumstances and each request is considered. We often ask for advice if it is an unusual request; if it is felt that this absence could be taken during one of the school holiday periods, then it will be unauthorised.

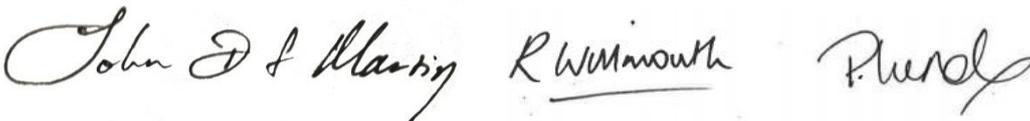
As a school, we really do not want to be issuing fines and the school does not receive any money as a result. However, in the rare circumstance where a holiday of 5 days or more and/or your child is absent from school for more than 5 days without authorisation, then we are duty-bound to be issuing a fine. You will be notified if a fine is to be issued.

More information about our attendance policy and the relevant documentation that supports it, please visit our website at:

<https://www.castlehillprimary.net/attendance>

Once again, thank you to those of you who ensure that your children are in school every day – all the data shows that future success is linked to school attendance. We love seeing your children every day and watching them develop and learn so that they are ready for their next stage of learning.

Yours sincerely



John DF Martin & The Attendance Leads