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EASTRY CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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6th September 2021

Dear Parents and carers.

I think you will all agree, that a good attendance record at school is vital, if our children are to get the most out of their time at Eastry.

Last year was a difficult time for many with the pandemic and some children had higher levels of absence than we would normally expect.

With the new academic year and a return to normal routines, I thought that it would be useful to send you a leaflet entitled Illness, Attendance and absence from school, which sets out clearly the occasions when you should/should not send your child in to school and the adverse effects on attendance levels when children miss school unnecessarily. This is in addition to the new guidelines regarding absence or isolation due to Covid-19 as detailed on our letter last week.

Both should be read alongside our school attendance policy which is available on our school website and covers all aspects of absence and the consequences of your child's attendance levels falling below the required standard. I would urge you to read this carefully so that you are aware of the process involved when a child's attendance levels drop. If you would like a hard copy please just let me know.

This is a particularly important section of the document:-

5.2 Reducing persistent absence

The school's procedures for targeting persistent absence:

- 95 – 100% attendance – the Family Liaison Officer will investigate and notify the Headteacher of any concerns.
- 90 – 95% attendance – school intervention letters/meeting with parents/carers.
- Below 90% - Where the level of absence is below 90% or has not improved and there are unauthorized absences, the school will make a referral to the KCC Inclusion and Attendance Service using the Digital Front Door. If it is not clear a referral to the Service is appropriate, the school will consult with the Local Authority School Liaison Officer for advice.
- For the cases that require intensive family support, the school may make an Early Help Notification.

If you are ever concerned about your child's level of absence, please do not hesitate to contact the school for support.

Kind regards

Mrs Tracy Inglis
Family Liaison Officer