Greenbank Attendance Newsletter

Welcome to our half termly Attendance Newsletter. The first half term since returning in September has been a positive start. Attendance figures below show that many of the year groups are close to the school target of 96%.

We are delighted that in our assemblies during our first week back to school after half term we celebrated children's attendance with a large number of certificates being handed out. 180 children received 100% Attendance Certificates for being in school every day and on time!!

115 children were awarded a Very Good certificate for attending between 95% and 99.9%. This means that these children were only off school between ½ a day and 1 ½ days out of the whole term (37 days).

As you will be aware OFSTED have highlighted that attendance needs to improve at Greenbank. The OFSTED inspectors in the report have said:

'Too many pupils do not attend school as regularly as they should. This means that they do not benefit fully from all that the school provides'

We can only improve our attendance if parents work with school to ensure that your children are in school regularly. Inspectors found that children enjoy attending Greenbank Primary and are able to talk about their learning. If your child attends school regularly this will help them to achieve the academic results they deserve. Regular attendance also helps with your child's friendships and social skills.

OFSTED also mentioned that the results that children achieve by the end of Year 6 are at the level expected for starting secondary school. The children do not just achieve these results in Year 6. Statistics show that pupils with good attendance in each of the school years have higher attainment in school and studies show that children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically. For our younger children, both attendance and punctuality are very important as they move straight into their phonics groups after the register has been taken.

Finally we need to make sure that the attendance figures remain high during the Autumn 2 Term. We know that the weather will start to get colder and wetter. The mornings and nights are darker after the clocks went back at the end of October BUT these changes should not mean your child does not attend school.

Autumn 1 Term 2026 Attendance

Nursery Apple	92.4%
Nursery Pear	91.9%
Reception	94.9%
Year 1	95.3%
Year 2	95.7%
Year 3	94.8%
Year 4	96.1%
Year 5	93.9%
Year 6	97.4%

Congratulations to our best attending year group for Autumn 1 Term – Year 6!

Autumn Term Whole School Attendance (Reception to Year 6) is **95.1%. The school target is 96%.**

IMPORTANT: Persistent Absentees

Can we remind parents that if your child has 90% attendance or less then your child will be classed as a Persistent Absentee and the Local Authority will be monitoring your child's attendance.

If your child is **off ill or has a medical or dental appointment during the school day** these will initially be authorised **BUT still count towards your child's OVERALL attendance** so your child could still be a Persistent Absentee.

If your child arrives late after 9:15am this will be unauthorised and again will count towards your child's overall attendance so your child could become a Persistent Absentee.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

A good attendance gives you the best chance for success

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

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Should I keep my child off school or not?

We understand and appreciate that children can become ill and that it is not always easy to decide whether to send them into school or keep them at home, so to help you with this decision we have devised a useful reference guide below.

Please remember and feel reassured that if we feel your child is not well enough for school we will contact you and send your child home.

GREEN - COME TO SCHOOL

-Mild cough

-temperature

-cold

-sore throat

-feeling sick

-sneezing

-runny or blocked nose

AMBER - SEEK SCHOOL ADVICE

–Headache

-stomach ache

-temperature (38 degrees or above.

Children can sometimes feel unwell especially first thing in the morning, so if in doubt contact the school for advice.

RED - STAY AT HOME

Vomiting & Diarrhoea - 48 hours must have elapsed before a child can return to school.

Chicken Pox – until the spots crust over.

VOMITING AND DIARRHOEA

Further guidance from the Local Authority states that:

If your child has **only vomited they only need 24 hours off school**.

If your child **only has diarrhoea they only need 24 hours off school**.

If your child has **both vomited and has diarrhoea you need 48 hours off school**.



How often might a child who is ill be off school?

In a typical school year a child who suffers from illnesses would have a maximum of 5 to 7 days off in total.

Some children may have more days off school if they have an illness such as Chicken Pox.

Many children **will not have 5 or more days off in a school year** but only the occasional day off if they have sickness or diarrhoea. Again children do not usually have repeated illnesses of sickness and diarrhoea unless there is an underlying medical condition.

For support with attendance please phone 01706 647923 and ask to speak to a member of staff from the Attendance Team – we are here to help!

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Good Attendance for Success!! Every minute in school counts!





8:45am – 3:15pm





Did you know…? Being late 15 minutes every day will add up to 2 weeks of school missed every year! That is the same as 50 missed lessons!



REPORTING AN ABSENCE – PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL EACH DAY OF ABSENCE TO SHARE UPDATES ON ABSENCES

If your child is absent from school you must:

- Phone school before 9:00am **every day your child is off school**. Our school phone number is 01706 647923 - **PRESS 1 for Greenbank – PRESS 1 to report an absence**.
- Give a clear reason for your child's absence along with name and class.
- If we do not hear from you with a reason for your child's absence we will class the absence as **UNAUTHORISED**. If your child has 10 unauthorised sessions (equivalent of 5 days) over a 10 week rolling period you will receive a Penalty Notice (Fine).

The Penalty Notice (Fine) is £160 per parent per child. The first offence will reduce to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days. The fine will go to any adult who has parental responsibility for your child this is even if you do not live together or are separated or divorced).

If a pupil has two consecutive days of unauthorised absence with no reason given or a reason school does not see as an approved absence then on the second day of absence we may conduct a home visit to establish reason for absence and to see your child.

We may also do home visits on Day 1 of an absence at different times of the school year for example the first day of a new half term. The last couple of days of a half term.

