

Missing school means missing out . . .



As a parent it is your responsibility to ensure that you get your child to school each day - on time!

It is also your responsibility to let the school know if they are going to be absent and why. Please contact the school office on the first day of any absence:

01642 677968

The only **acceptable** reasons for absence are:

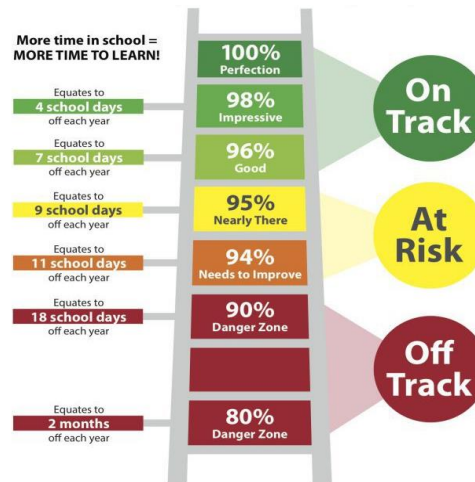
- **Illness**
- **Emergency appointment**
- **Exceptional circumstances**

A note about Covid-19:

If you are ill with COVID, this is now classed as an illness and will impact on attendance. However, if you have to isolate due to being a close contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19, this does **NOT** affect your attendance percentage. This means that despite the current pandemic, good attendance is still possible.



How good is my attendance?



For every day your child is absent from school, **over 6 hours** of instructional time is lost.

Rewards

At Hardwick Green, we strongly believe in rewarding children that have consistently good attendance across the **WHOLE YEAR**. Children can receive the following for their attendance:

96% - 98% Reward: Children receive a **special treat** at the end of each half term for being in the 'On Track' zone.

99-100% Reward: Children receive an **extra special treat and a certificate** in assembly at the end of each half term for being '100% Perfection.'

All children from the above are entered into a random prize draw to win a £50.00 shopping voucher for their family.



Did you know . . . ?

Government guidelines say that attendance should be at least 96%

If attendance drops below 90%, your child is classed as a **persistent absentee** and may be referred to the Education Welfare Service, and can lead to prosecution.

If your child's attendance is 90%, it means they are absent:

- Half a day every week.
- 19 days across the school year
- A total of 133 days across their time at Hardwick Green!

Missing school means:

- Missing **LEARNING** . . . which leads to gaps in knowledge.
- Missing **ACTIVITIES** . . . which means missing out on fun.
- Missing **TIME WITH FRIENDS** . . . which means that they move on to new friends.



Term time holidays

Changes in the law mean that Principals can no longer authorise holidays in term time unless there are **exceptional** circumstances.

The following are **NOT** considered as exceptional:

- Lower costs
- Once in a lifetime experiences
- Holidays booked as a surprise by relatives

Children are only in school for 190 days per year, **PLEASE** take them on holiday on some of the other 175 days!

Fines

The Education Act of 1996 states that it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that all children between the ages of 5 and 16 years attend school on a regular basis **AND** on time.

Parents of children who have regular unauthorised absences or who take their children on holiday in term time may receive a penalty notice and a fine of

£60 per parent, per child!



Attendance matters

Children who attend school every day make better progress and achieve more than those who miss time at school.

Arriving late also causes problems. Children who arrive late disturb the lesson when they come in the room, which makes them feel uncomfortable and interrupts learning for others. It means that they miss important information at the start of lessons and it takes them longer to settle to work for the day.

It means that if you are 15 minutes late each day you lose 9 ½ days of learning each school year!

We want to work WITH parents to ensure that your children get the support they need to be in school on time, every day. This will help them to achieve and get the most out of their time with us. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance please contact our Education Welfare Officer:

Mrs Ricketts
01642 677968

Part of her role is to work with and support parents with any issues or problems. Please talk to her and we will do all that we can to help.



FREE Breakfast Club



Our breakfast club is now completely **FREE!** It runs every day from 8:00am and is accessible through the hall in the EYFS playground.

If children are struggling to get into school on time then come along to breakfast club!

Children can have a choice of breakfast – including bagels, fruit, cereal and toast – and have fun with their friends to make a great start to the day.



Kindly sponsored by The Greggs Foundation