



Hillside Primary School

📍 Belstead Avenue, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 8NU
🌐 www.hillsideprimary.co.uk
✉ office@hillsideprimary.co.uk
☎ 01473 601402

Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Importance of School attendance

I wanted to remind you that good attendance is expected at Hillside Primary School. I would like to count on your support to encourage your child to achieve improved attendance by the end of term. You can support your child by packing their school bag with lots of fluids, giving some pain relief if necessary, and encouraging them to rest after school. Please be reassured that staff will always make sure that children are well looked after.

By ensuring regular school attendance, you are supporting your child's development, both academically and socially, and giving them the best chance to maximise their potential. There is a direct link between attendance and achievement and students with poor attendance are five times less likely to achieve their full potential. Furthermore, missing school leads to missed opportunities for your child to develop the school's vision of 'Achieving Greatness Together'.

We urge you **not to take your child on holiday during term time**. In line with our school attendance policy, any holiday requests will not be authorised and may lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice. We also encourage parents/carers to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

All students are expected to arrive at school **by 8:45am** when the register opens. Any children arriving after the register has closed at 9:15am will receive an unauthorised absent mark for the morning session, unless a valid reason is provided. Persistent late arrival at school could also lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued.

If you have concerns around your child's attendance, please speak to a member of staff at the earliest opportunity. We can provide support to tackle any barriers to attending school. The aim is for every child to **achieve over 95%** school attendance, please check Arbor for your child's current %. Under Government guidance, any child whose attendance is 90% and below is classified as persistently absent.



Let's all work together to support your child to attend school every day, on time, to make every day count.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Wass

