



Dear parents/guardians/carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention, the national average percentage, for whole school attendance, in a primary school (**deemed 'good' by Ofsted**) is 96%+.

Unfortunately, our whole school attendance percentage falls below this, so **there is a need for parents, carers and school to work together** to raise aspirations and meet national expectations, to remain a good school.

One key area for parents to address, is to ensure your child(children) are in school at all times. This includes not taking holidays during term time.

I appreciate holidays are cheaper but you will be fined for taking holidays, in term time. This is not my ruling, this is the Local Authority ruling and one I will be undertaking.

I also appreciate children are ill sometimes. You should be aware we are now implementing home visits for all children who are absent from school for more than 2 days. Most sickness bugs are 48 hours and children should return straight after. We have first aiders who can administer prescribed medicines or antibiotics and **we would be more than happy to provide that service so your children can return to school.**

Each class has a TA who can monitor children's wellbeing, and we have a '**phone home' policy** if children are unwell or need unprescribed medication by a parent/guardian, eg Calpol, to keep them going throughout the day.

I appreciate coughs and colds are very frequent this time of year, and can leave children and adults feeling, unwell, but again there are cough sweets which (with written permission) can be administered and prescribed medication by a First Aider.

On rare occasions parents unable to come up to school (those who are working) can sign a disclaimer (short-term only) for a First Aider to administer non-prescribed medication to support colds, flu and headaches, however, this would need to be managed and risk assessed by the Head Teacher and parent(s).

Parents can provide water bottles to be accessible to children with coughs and medical needs.

Evidence shows where gaps emerge in Early Years and primary school, the children never catch up and this has a detrimental affect on their secondary education.

From this term, absent children (on their return) will attend a lunchtime catch-up club to ensure they understand the objectives missed, but to also ensures they are confident learners who are not falling behind - because of their attendance.

Your child(children) deserve to be in a good school and the above guidance is only the guidance a good school would provide for parents/guardians.

We **MUST** improve our attendance percentages to meet national averages so please ensure you support the school and your child(children) to do this – as **it only takes one day off to create a gap in learning and the above applies from Nursery to Year 6.**

Kind Regards

Julie Woodward - Acting Head Teacher