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25th November 24

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware there have been changes to the expectation and policy for attendance in schools this. Our attendance has improved this term, but we are still concerned with the number of pupils whose attendance has fallen below 90% which is considered **Persistent absenteeism.**

We know as a parent or carer you want the best for your child(ren). Having a good education is an important factor in opening more opportunities in adult life.

Facts about attendance:

- a child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life
- 90% of young people with attendance rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all
- poor examination results limit young people's options and poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable
- poor school attendance is also closely associated with crime a quarter of school age offenders have truanted repeatedly
- at least 1 million children take at least one-half day off a year without permission
- 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absence

GCSEs may seem a long way off for you and your child but all absence at any stage leads to gaps in your child's learning. This in turn can:

- mean that they fall behind in work
- affect their motivation
- affect their enjoyment of learning
- lead to poor behaviour
- affect their desire to attend school regularly affect their confidence in school



- mean they miss out on the social life of school and extra-curricular opportunities and experiences
- affect their ability to have or keep friendships.

Good school attendance habits are best started early. Children learn from those around them and you as parents/carers set the standards and expectations for your child. Showing your child the importance of attending school every day not only helps your child to settle quickly when starting school but helps them to keep and maintain friendships and enjoy the school environment.

There tends to be good reasons why children become reluctant to attend school. Take the time to listen to your child, share any concerns you or your child may have with the appropriate member of school staff and seek support at the very earliest opportunity.

Over the next few weeks, parents of children whose attendance has fallen below 90% will be called in to school to talk about attendance, what your child has missed and how we can work together moving forward to ensure that the gaps that will be forming in your child's education can be closed and good attendance can be achieved moving forward.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that every pupil at our school can thrive and reach their full potential through regular and consistent school attendance.

Kind regards,

K. Teade

Karen Tearle