

Summer Term Attendance Newsletter

Attendance, everyone's responsibility.

Useful Contacts:

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As we move into the final few weeks of the school year, we want to take a moment to highlight the importance of consistent attendance and share some exciting news and updates from our school community. Your partnership is essential in ensuring that our students achieve their highest potential, and regular attendance is a key component of their success.

The Importance of Regular Attendance

Consistent school attendance is crucial for your child's academic performance and social development. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Achieve higher grades and test scores
- Develop strong social skills and friendships
- Build a positive attitude towards learning

Our Attendance Goals

This year, our goal is to maintain a 95% attendance rate across all grades. We are thrilled to report that, thanks to your support, we are currently at 92.9%! Let's work together to reach our goal by encouraging our children to attend school every day and on time.

Tips for Improving Attendance - Here are some tips to help ensure your child's regular attendance:

1. **Set a Routine:** Establish a regular bedtime and morning routine to help your child get enough rest and be ready for school.
2. **Plan Ahead:** Schedule medical appointments and family holiday outside of school hours.
3. **Stay Informed:** Keep track of school events and important dates. Our school calendar is always available on our website.
4. **Communicate:** If your child is facing challenges that affect their attendance, please reach out to your child's Head of Year. We are here to support you.

Important Update – Changes to Education-Related Penalty Notices

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence during term time. These changes will come into effect on 19 August 2024.

The changes to be aware of are as follows:

- **New Penalty Rates:** Penalty notices issued for offences that occur after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. However, if paid within 21 days, the penalty can be reduced to £80.
- **Second Penalty Notices:** Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be charged at £160, to be paid within 28 days, with no option for a discounted rate.
- **Threshold for Penalty Notices:** The threshold for considering a penalty notice is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school-week period. This may include absences due to arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- **Limit on Penalty Notices:** A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period. For the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s), another course of action will need to be considered, such as prosecution or another attendance legal intervention.
- **Effective Date:** Only penalty notices issued for absences occurring after 19 August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds.

We understand that regular school attendance is crucial for your child's educational progress and overall well-being. These changes are being implemented to ensure consistency and to address unauthorised absences effectively.