



Attendance Matters

The Newsletter- March 2023

We think that attendance matters!

Welcome to our first attendance newsletter of the year; the aim is to promote the importance of attendance across the school community. It is really important that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance at school so that they can enjoy their learning and socialising with their peers.

The profile of attendance is a key priority for schools and as such we have been instructed to start to implement stricter measures for unauthorised and repeated absences.

You will see that **our attendance target is 96%** again this year. **Our current whole school attendance is 92%**. We will be sending out a termly Attendance Newsletter to continue to raise the profile of the importance of attendance at school.

Rewards

We are giving out special awards for 100% each week at school through a lucky dip system. We are also celebrating any class' attendance that is above 96% by awarding them with a class certificate. At the end of each term, children are awarded a 100% certificate if they have been in school each week. At the end of the school year, children receive 100% attendance badges and, this year, we are looking at giving out special prizes through a ballot for children with 100% attendance in the Summer Term- the prizes could be a bike or voucher (watch this space).

The School Day

A reminder that the school day starts at 8.50am and the registers close at 8.55am. The school doors are open at 8.45am to allow the children to get in with plenty of time to be settled.

Once the registers have closed then your child is marked absent and this will affect their overall attendance. The school day finishes at 3.00pm. Please note that if your child is late then this will count as an absence. The table below demonstrates how much school children miss if they are absent and it is surprising how this adds up. We are fully aware that the circumstances around illnesses that children have contracted are mainly responsible and unavoidable for the majority of absences. The aim of this initiative is the positive promotion of attendance for all.

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is....	over 13 years schooling
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Over 8 years

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Good attendance is important because...

Statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school and studies show that children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically. With the focus and development on the curriculum that has taken place at school then children who are absent will find gaps in their sequential knowledge. For our younger children, both attendance and punctuality are doubly important as they move straight into their phonics groups after the register has been taken.

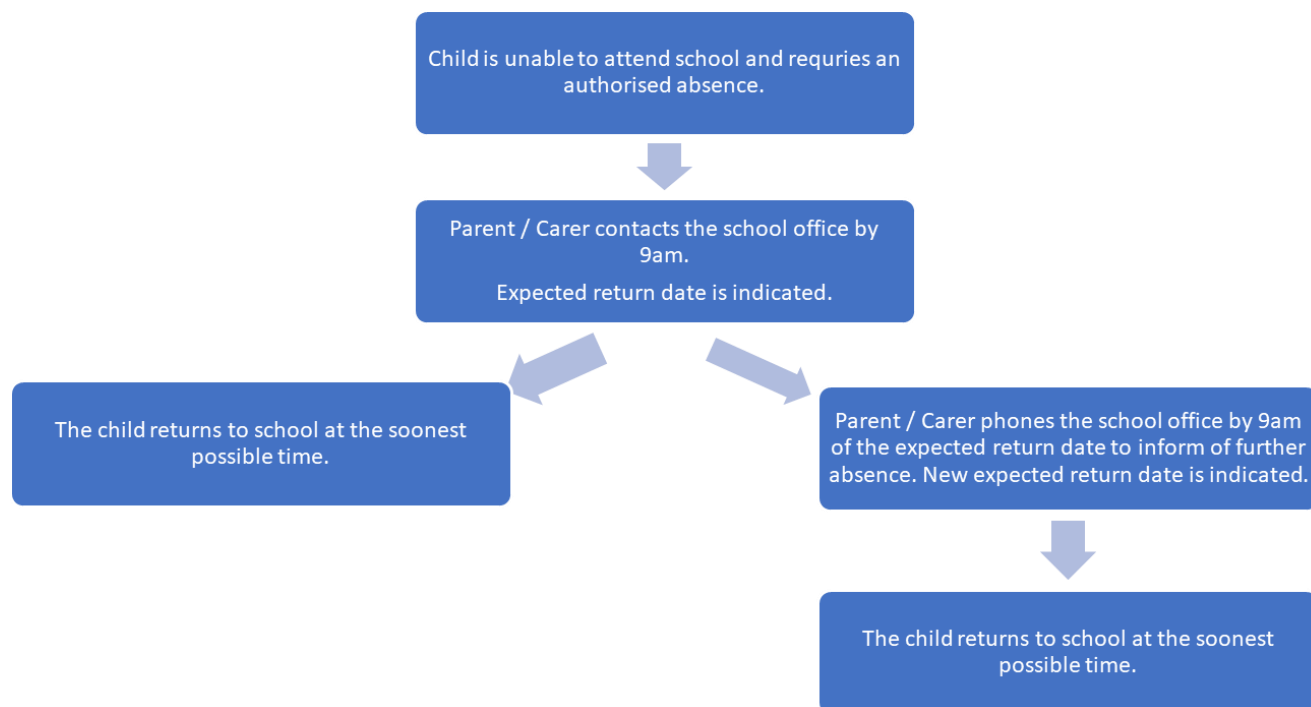


Working Together

We will be working with you to keep you updated on your child's attendance by sending out letters at key points to inform you of your child's attendance should it go below 96% or 90%. We may invite you into school to find ways to work together to support your child's attendance.

Recording Absences

Unfortunately, there are circumstances when a child is unable to attend due to illness, medical appointments or emergency incidents. In these instances, parents / carers need to follow the procedures indicated below. The school may insist on further evidence to support authorised absences, as outlined in the Attendance Policy.



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