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Monday 7th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The government have recently updated the guidance and the expectations around how schools deal with attendance as we move into the next phase of managing COVID-19.

In a recent communication, the Department for Education (DfE) state that:

School attendance has obviously been affected by the pandemic – new data shows 87.4% of pupils attended school [during a week in January] – but even before the pandemic there were issues that meant pupils who should be in school weren't attending as regularly as they should.

As a result of high rates of absence, schools are tasked with improving attendance and working with families to ensure children are in school regularly. Being in school is important in helping pupils to fulfil their potential. During school time, pupils should be in class at every available opportunity with their teachers and peers. Now, more than ever, excellent attendance is essential. This is equally important for well-being as it is for learning.

We realise that the pressures of COVID isolation are still upon us, but it is vital that we do all that we can to maintain excellent levels of attendance. We know that family holidays have been cancelled and sometimes need to be hastily rearranged, but we must urge you not to book these during term time – however tempting this might be. We cannot sanction any family holidays during term time.

We are analysing the attendance of each child carefully and after the half-term break, we will begin to send letters to families whose children's attendance is a cause for concern. When looking at attendance, we also look carefully at lateness. Children should be in school before the gates are closed at 8:55am.



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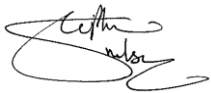
As a reminder, registers close at 8:55am.

We are keen to work in partnership with all families to ensure school attendance is the best it can be. As the DfE state:

...pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

We know things continue to be challenging and children should not be in school if they are unwell (see further details [here](#).) By working together, we can ensure that children receive the best possible chance of being successful.

Yours faithfully



Stephen Snelson
Headteacher



Rachel Watts
Deputy Headteacher

