

19th April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Helping Bugle School Achieve Excellent Attendance

As you are aware, Bugle School has been working extremely hard to improve the overall attendance of the children. We would like to thank parents of children who ensure their children attend school regularly and promptly each morning. Bugle School is aiming to be in line with National Expectation figures of 96%, but our attendance last year (2016-17) was 93%. You may also have seen in the local press recently that our attendance figures last year were amongst the lowest in the County. I am sure that this will concern you as much as it concerns us. Unfortunately, the current attendance this school year (2017-18) is even lower than last year at 92%.

It is essential that we continue to work together to improve these figures. You will have noticed that there has been more coverage on newsletters in relation to attendance, as it is our duty to highlight the importance of your children being in school. At Bugle School we recognise excellent attendance during assemblies and via the text message service. We also have weekly visits from Mr Honey in our KS1 classes. Where concerns have been identified about a child's attendance, we arrange parental support meetings.

We understand that there are mitigating circumstances when children are extremely poorly and unable to attend school. However, shopping visits, family days out, holidays taken in term time or supporting parents with their work commitments are not acceptable reasons for absence.

If a child is absent, you must inform us of the reason for this. This helps us to correctly code the absence and means it may not be recorded as an unauthorised absence. It is essential that we have up to date contact details so that we can contact you about absence or for emergencies. It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure that their children receive an appropriate education. Failing to send your child to school regularly without good reason is a criminal offence. Persistent absence or lateness can result in Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) involvement, which can result in fines for parents of up to £2,500 per child.

It is imperative that children are in school so that they are able to make academic progress in their learning and maintain their social skills with their peers. Poor attendance can have a huge impact on these as well as other factors.

How does your child compare?

Attendance during one school year	... equals this number of days absent	... which is approximately this many weeks absent	... which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

Over the following weeks, please look out for further information, including questionnaires, related to attendance. We also welcome your thoughts and ideas.

Again, we would like to thank those parents who make sure their child is attending school regularly and are therefore benefitting from their educational opportunities.

Yours sincerely

 

Mr T Wherry/Mr M Nicholls
Senior Head of School/Head of School