

NORTHUMBERLAND

COUNTY COUNCIL

Lowick and Holy Island C of E First Schools

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Dear Parents and Carers

It is that time of year when schools look at their attendance information for the first two terms of this academic year to see how they are doing compared to national and local expectations. I am pleased to let you know that, overall, our school attendance is at 95.8%. This is a little below the national average for primary schools from last year, but is above the expectation of 95%.

Some of you will already know that the rules are very strict about when I can authorise an absence from school. For example, government guidelines tell me that I cannot authorise holidays taken in term time. If you would like more information, there is a leaflet about attendance currently on our website, which I believe was sent home to parents by the previous head teacher.

The rules also state that when a child's absence falls below 90% they are considered to be a 'persistent absentee' and the Local Authority will expect the school to take action or refer to the Education Welfare Officer if required. It makes sense to me that we should be offering support to any family, if they have a child whose attendance is in danger of falling below 90%, before that actually happens. We would like to help ensure that none of our children miss out on their vital learning. Obviously, sometimes we are just unlucky with sickness or accidents and it cannot be helped!

With the aim of making sure we offer help and support where and when it is needed, we are going to contact you if a child's attendance falls below 92%. This will give us time to work with you to sort out any problems before the attendance falls any lower.

We are always happy to talk to you about any concerns or questions you may have. I wish you all a very healthy rest of the summer term!

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Simpson

