



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Educate Protect Love Serve



Barn Lane, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL31 1LW
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Headteacher: Mrs Alison McDonald
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28th June 2019

Attendance

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, a huge **thank you** to all of the parents that are supporting us with attendance here at St Mary's, it is having a positive impact and our whole school attendance is currently **96.6%**. It is evident to see the progress for pupils with increased attendance both academically and socially. We will continue to work closely with families to improve attendance and refer to the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) when necessary.

Term time holidays continue to have a significant, detrimental impact on our whole school attendance and the attainment of pupils. As explained in previous letters, fines will be issued to parents/carers that take term time holidays as we are unable to authorise them. Our governors have authorised our first penalty notices. Once a penalty notice is issued by the local authority parents/carers must pay the fine or liaise with the Educational Welfare Service as this is no longer a school matter. Please remember you are **committing an offence** if your child is absent from school without authorisation. There is more information regarding attendance on the Cornwall Council website, please follow this link for details on penalty notices <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/education-welfare/education-welfare-leaflets-and-useful-information/>. Please note that penalty notices can also be issued for **persistent lateness**.

We are aware that parents report their children as ill to avoid potential fines but as explained in previous communication, we are unable to authorise several days of illness (without medical evidence) so this would result in a referral to the EWO with potential 'fast track' penalty notices being issued.

We continue to strive for excellent attendance as we know the difference this makes to children's lives, both academically and socially. The **St Mary's Challenge** will continue in September as this had a positive effect on attendance and pupils really enjoy the celebrations and rewards they receive when their class achieves 100%.

We know that working together with our families, anything is possible so we are setting our aspirational attendance goal at **97.5%** for the 2019-2020 academic year. We hope you understand all of these measures are in place as **we want the very best for every child** and we look forward to your continued support in reaching this target.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance please contact me so we can work together and improve the situation. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Landry
Pastoral Lead