



SEFTON PARK

Attendance Newsletter Term 1

Attendance

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 government has continued to highlight the importance of attendance. Since the pandemic there has been a noticeable decline in attendance nationwide. The campaign is called Moments Matter, Attendance Counts. It shows clear evidence that those who attend school 96% of the time make better progress academically and socially over those whose attendance is below this. At Sefton Park, we understand that in addition to this, there has been an increase in the number of children experiencing anxiety around attending school. As a school we are aware of this and are utilising work produced by the Anna Freud Centre to ensure we are giving children with anxiety school every success of attending.

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. It's also important to highlight the importance of the first 30 minutes in a classroom. This is when the children settle for the day, and when they listen to the plan for the day and get input into the first subject. This means missing this key time has a bigger impact on the child than most other parts of the day.

The school day finishes at 3.30pm except on a Friday when we finish at 3:00pm. Please note 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.

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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We know that life can get busy and sometimes chaotic, and we also understand that there are times when children will be unable to attend school, due to illness or to family commitments. What we say though, is we are here to help. If you are finding things difficult then please get in touch as there are things we can do to support. Our aim is for your child to thrive and have the best primary school experience they can.

If you are unsure of where your child's attendance currently is, you can access this through the Arbor app. Please note that if your child attends alternative provision including dyslexia or French school that although this is marked as an absence we are aware of this and do take this into account.

What does Good Attendance Look Like?



Medical Appointments

We request that, where possible, routine medical and dentist appointments are arranged outside school hours as these appointments will affect your child's percentage attendance. We do understand that some appointments, such as hospital consultations, are not always possible to arrange outside of school hours. However if your appointment time allows your child to come to school for registration and then leave, this will have a positive impact on their attendance figure. Likewise if they are able to be back in school for afternoon registration 1.15pm this will also have a positive impact. Please make sure you have contacted the school by 9.25am if your child is going to be absent. If we do not hear from you, we will make a phone call to find out why your child is not in school.



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Holidays

We appreciate and understand the amazing experiences and memories that holidays create and help children deepen their understanding of the world around them but it's important to know when booking a holiday that absence will not be authorised during school term time except in exceptional circumstances.

If you have any questions or concerns around your child's attendance then please do not hesitate to contact Mr Alex Powell, Headteacher and school attendance officer at seftonpark@bristol-schools.uk