

Monday 8th September 2025

Dear Families,

Attendance Matters: Together, Every Day Counts

Good attendance is one of the most important ways we can help children succeed – both in their learning and in their friendships. This newsletter shares how we celebrate attendance at school, why every day matters, and some simple tips for supporting your child.

Did You Know? Children who attend school regularly are **more likely to achieve better grades** and build stronger friendships?

Follow the link [HERE](#) for Government information and guidance on 'The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment Year'

Our Current Attendance Stats?

Whole School Attendance (2024_25)	94.7%	Let's work together to close the gap 😊
Our Target?	96%!	

Academic Achievement

Pupils with 95–100% attendance at Key Stage 2 are 1.3 times more likely to meet expected standards in Reading, Writing, and Maths compared with those with 90–95% attendance.

At Key Stage 4, pupils with 95–100% attendance are 1.9 times more likely to achieve a Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSEs.

Missing just 10 days in Year 6 can reduce the chance of meeting expected standards by 25%, and in Year 11, it can cut the likelihood of achieving a Grade 5 by 50%!

Regular attendance really does make a measurable difference to learning outcomes.

Social and Emotional Development

Coming to school regularly is about much more than lessons. It gives children the chance to **spend time with friends** every day, **share experiences**, and **learn how to work and play together**. These daily interactions help them to **build confidence**, **develop stronger communication** and **teamwork skills**, and **practise managing their feelings** in a safe environment. Regular attendance also helps children **feel part of the class and school community**, giving them a **stronger sense of belonging and security**.

Learning Progress

Every lesson builds on the one before it. When children miss days at school, it's harder for them to keep up and gaps in learning can quickly grow. Regular attendance means children stay on track, build knowledge step by step, and develop the skills they need with confidence. It also helps teachers to support them more effectively, as they can see the full picture of each child's progress.

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Future Opportunities

Good attendance at primary school sets strong habits for the future. Children who attend regularly are more likely to achieve well academically and develop the resilience and self-discipline they need as they grow. These habits lay the foundations for success at secondary school, in further education, and later in the workplace. Most importantly, regular attendance helps children believe in themselves and what they can achieve.

Class Attendance Champions 🏆

Water fight? Film and popcorn afternoon? Trip to the beach? Every week, our classes take on the attendance challenge – and believe me, children and staff are determined to win!

In our Shining Star Assembly, the class with the highest attendance is awarded the weekly Attendance Trophy and earns a star on their class chart. Collect three stars and the whole class gets to plan a special treat together!

Spotlight on Punctuality 🕒

Did you know? Being just **10 minutes late each day** adds up to **over 33 hours of lost learning a year** – almost a whole school week!

Arriving on time means children can start the day calmly, take part in the first learning activities, and feel confident and ready to succeed. Every minute really does make a difference.

Let's all be Attendance SuperHEROes: Here, Every day, Ready, On time! 😊

Top Tips for Great Attendance

🛏️ **Set routines** – Regular bedtimes and calm mornings make school days easier.

👜 **Be ready** – Clothes, bags, and lunches prepared the night before save stress.

📅 **Every day counts** – Even a few missed days each term add up to lost learning.

ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS



 **Only if unwell** – Keep children home for genuine illness (fever, vomiting, contagious bugs).

 **Plan appointments** – Try to book doctors and dentists outside school hours.

 **Talk positively** – Encourage your child and celebrate small successes.

 **Work with us** – If mornings are tricky or your child is worried, let us know.

Together we can make sure every child gets the best chance to thrive by being in school, every day!

Department of Education Guidance is clear: holidays during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Unavoidable leave of absence requests for school-aged children are generally related to one off events that are **rare, significant, unavoidable, and short in duration**. Family holidays are not considered unavoidable.

Taking your child out of school without permission may result in a **Penalty Notice** being issued.

What this means:

- A Penalty Notice may be issued if your child has **unauthorised absences**, including holidays.
- The fine is **£80 per child, per parent** if paid within 21 days, rising to **£160** if paid within 28 days.
- Failure to pay may result in prosecution.
- There is **no right of appeal**—if you believe a notice was **issued in error**, you must contact the school directly.

We understand that holidays are important for family time, but we are **legally required** to prioritise your child's education and wellbeing. Every school day counts.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days

If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days.

Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.



Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

If you have any questions or need to discuss exceptional circumstances, please contact the school office. As ever, if you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr P Baker



Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

