**Blakehill Primary School Attendance Newsletter**

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| Class Attendance forAutumn term 2022 |
| RW | 94.3% |
| RS | 91.83% |
| 1W | 95.7% |
| 1D | 95.8% |
| 2P | 96.55% |
| 2G | 96.1% |
| 3R | 96.99% |
| 3S | 95.45% |
| 4R | 96.35% |
| 4SJ | 96.05% |
| 5GH | 95.25% |
| 5J | 94.07% |
| 6R | 94.97% |
| 6P | 95.34% |
| Well done 3R for being the best class for attendance in Autumn term. |

Firstly, and most importantly, a HUGE well done and thank you to all of the children who have 100% attendance for the academic year to date.

Attendance Matters, Every Day Counts!

Regular attendance is a key factor to your child achieving their very best and this means being in school, on time every day!

Percentage attendance since September 2022 is 94.6%. Our whole school target is 96%, let’s work hard this year to achieve it!

Well done 2P, you are our top attending class.

Here are the figures showing you

Attendance Incentives 2022-23

**Weekly –** The class that achieves the highest % of the week receives the weekly attendance award of a £5 voucher which can be banked or spent. Also, an attendance raffle is drawn during the Monday assembly, all pupils who attended for a full week are entered.

**Termly (whole school)** – every child who has 100% attendance for the term receives a certificate and a small treat – decided on by the School Council

**Whole Year** – pupils with 100% attendance for the whole year receive a certificate and receive a fun afternoon

Pupils receive lots of support and praise for good attendance!

Fixed Penalty Notices

Attendance Procedures Schools are obliged to implement robust attendance procedures to tackle poor attendance. Unfortunately, this does include fixed penalty notices for holidays taken in term time and persistent absenteeism. Please see our termly attendance newsletters for more information or speak with school’s attendance lead, Mrs Gould

#### **Poor attendance**

#### **If a pupil has 6 or more sessions of unauthorised absence in the 6 weeks (60 Sessions) and their attendance has not been below 80%, a poor attendance stage 1 fixed penalty notice may be issued by the local authority.**

#### **Fixed penalties for attendance is £60 per parent, per child.**

**What is Persistent Absence?**

A child who only attends school for 90% or less of the time is classed as a Persistent Absentee.

90% might sound great, but Jack's story shows us why it's not:

Jack is a child who attends school for 90% of the time. His parents think this is quite good. 90% attendance is the same as being absent from school for a half day every week. 

Over a whole school year Jack would miss four weeks of lessons. Jack would also spend more time away from school over the year than in school!

| **Days in a year** | **Days spent in school** | **Days spent out of school** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 365 | 171 | 194 |

If Jack's attendance for all the years he went to school was 90% he would have missed 209 days of school, that's more than a whole school year!

Going to school - Why it’s so important! Lots of people think that missing the odd day at school here and there can’t do much harm. But even taking a short amount of time can be a problem. Your child might fall behind in their work and not be able to catch up. If there are gaps in their knowledge they will suffer when school assessment time comes around. There could be other problems too; children who miss school are missing out on the social side of things which affects their ability to make and keep friends and it can dent their confidence to attempt new work and work alongside others.

The importance of Punctuality

 Punctuality is crucial to ensuring that your child’s day at school starts smoothly and that they are in the right mindset to start learning and working hard.

If you would like any support or advice on attendance or punctuality, please speak to your child’s class teacher or the learning mentor.

Reporting an absence

If your child can not attend school, please contact the school office before 9.00am with full details of your child’s absence. If we do not hear from you, we will call or text you to find out why your child is not in school. If we are unable to make contact and you do not provide a reason for your child’s absence, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised. If a pupil has three consecutive days of absence with no reason given, we may conduct a home visit to establish the reason for absence and to see the child in question.

**Request for Leave of Absence**.

 **We ask that where possible parents do not take children out of school for holidays as this has an impact on their education and social wellbeing.**

**When holidays are taken during school time a leave of absence form must be completed and passed to the office.**

Holidays

Easter Holiday: School closes on Friday 31st March and reopens on Monday 17th April.

Term time holidays should be avoided.

What can I do to improve attendance?

Be honest. Every parent struggles at some point, no parent is perfect! If you're having difficulties with your child, seek help. Your child's school is a great place to start.

Engage. Professionals work with families because they want to help make things better, but they can only help if families talk to them, meet with them, and accept the help that’s on offer.

Persistent Absence - Persistent absence is defined by the Government as attendance below 90%. If your child’s attendance falls below 90% you may be asked to attend a meeting for a discussion about how we can support you to improve your child’s attendance.

**Mrs Gould and Mrs Bottomley**

