



Our Ref: AKB/kmd/attendance/aprilltr

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Headteacher: Mr A Walker

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Dear Parents/Carers

Re: School Attendance

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school as regularly as possible. We have had a really positive start to the Spring term and our attendance initiatives, which includes Friday Funday - house darts, attendance prizes, queue passes, and our wide range of clubs and enrichment activities - continue to give learners lots of reasons to enjoy being in school in addition to their learning!

As you know, every day in school makes a difference. When learners miss time at school, they inevitably miss learning and catching up can become challenging. While we work hard to support students who have been absent, being in lessons with their teachers and friends is the best way for them to stay confident and make good progress. When absences do happen, it is important that learners complete any missed work so they can return to lessons feeling secure and fully up to speed.

We would also like to kindly remind families of stipulations on term-time holidays. Parents are not able to authorise absences — only the school can do this. Headteachers do have the discretion to grant leave during term time, but this is not an automatic entitlement. Current Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance, introduced in August 2024, states:

“Generally, the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.”

This means, on a national basis holidays are **not permitted** in term time. Lower costs, family celebrations abroad or convenience are not considered exceptional reasons. Learners are expected to attend school for 190 days each year, leaving 175 days available for holidays, family events and other commitments. Taking holidays during school time can cause learners to fall behind and can result in fixed penalty fines being issued.

We are grateful to the vast majority of our families who continue to arrange holidays outside of term time, and we appreciate your ongoing partnership in helping ensure pupils attend school as often as possible.

Working together, we can give every learner the best chance to succeed.

Yours faithfully

April Bishell
Assistant Headteacher