

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Attendance at Hurley Primary School

GOOD ATTENDANCE AND GOOD PUNCTUALITY ARE BOTH CRUCIAL TO ENABLE CHILDREN TO REACH THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL

POOR ATTENDANCE AND POOR PUNCTUALITY ARE EXTREMELY DETRIMENTAL TO YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION AND THIS CAN BE VERY DAMAGING TO YOUR CHILD'S LIFE CHANCES

As some of you may have heard on the news, school attendance nationally is a serious concern, particularly for the 20% of children who are persistently absent.

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school, it is essential that they attend school regularly to allow the child to fulfil their potential as the impact of missing school will have significant impact on the outcomes for the child.

As a school we want all our children to achieve and we are constantly looking at ways of improving our systems for that to happen.

We want to work to improve our children's attendance to a good level - 96%.

Our current school attendance rate is about 95% which has improved from last year but we want this to continue to improve.

## Lost Learning

Low attendance will have a very detrimental impact on your child's academic success. This table shows how different levels of attendance can add up over weeks, months and years.

*(Please also see the attached attendance poster)*

Number of days missed in a year	Rating	Total time lost during Primary School	Total time lost up until GCSEs	Impact
0 – 2	Amazing attendance	Up to three weeks missed	Up to a half term missed school life	No significant impact
3 - 4	Great attendance	Up to a half term	Up to 1 term	Low impact
5 – 7	Good attendance	Up to 10 weeks missed	Half a year missed	Low impact
8 – 17	Cause for concern	1 term - half a year missed	2 terms -over 1 year missed	High impact
18 - 38	Persistent absence	Half a year to 1 year missed	1 – 2 years missed	Significant, severe impact

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Just a few days each year will add up over a child's life at school so good attendance is vital for your child to have the best chance at reaching their potential at school. Therefore, raising our children's attendance is a top priority at Hurley Primary School.

As such, we will be contacting parents whose children are in danger of falling into the concerning attendance categories. We appreciate that children get ill, and if they are too unwell to be at school, they need to recover at home. Certain illnesses, like vomiting and diarrhoea, require children to be off school for 48 hours. However, we need children to develop their resilience when dealing with colds and other minor illnesses. If you are in doubt, please contact the school office who will be able to advise you on the best course of action.

Attendance percentages can be misleading. For some parents 90% attendance may seem like an acceptable level of attendance. However, the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a day of school each week or 19 days of school during the school year. That is nearly four school weeks.

### Punctuality

Arriving at school on time and ready to learn is the best start to the day for our children. Even being 5 minutes late per day can add up to around 3 ½ school days missed.

Minutes Late Per Day	How Many School Days/Weeks Missed In 1 Year
5 minutes late	3½ school days missed a year
10 minutes late	1½ school <b>weeks</b> missed a year
15 minutes late	2 ½ school <b>weeks</b> missed a year
30 minutes late	4 school <b>weeks</b> missed a year

### Absences

Holidays during term time are not authorised and any holiday taken during term time will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Any child absent from school due to a holiday will miss out on important learning and will fall behind with their schoolwork. There are only 190 statutory school days leaving plenty of time for holidays to be arranged outside full to be arranged outside term time.

Please support us by making doctor, dentist and medical appointments outside of school hours when possible and ensure your child arrives at school on time.

If your child is genuinely unwell and unable to attend school, please telephone the school pupil absence line and leave a message. We must have a reason for every time a child is absent from school.

If we have not been able to make contact with you, we may make a home visit, inform our attendance partner CSAWS or inform the police or social services. Some of these measures may seem extreme but it is our duty to ensure the safeguarding of every pupil in our school community.

Many thanks for ensuring your children can attend school as regularly and punctually as possible.

If there are any ways, we can help and support you or your child to improve attendance or punctuality please let us know.

Best Wishes

Matt Hardman, Head teacher

and the Hurley Primary School Team 😊