

14/9/23

School Attendance Update

Dear Parents

By request of the government and the Local Authority, attendance will be monitored weekly and focus will be put on children whose attendance is **below 95%**. Letters will be sent home once your child's attendance falls below 95%. The school start time for registration is 8:55am. Late marks will be issued this year and may result in a fine or the involvement of the Education Attendance Officers from Sefton.

At times, it is accepted that children will be genuinely ill but unless they are contagious or are unable to physically get to school they need to be in. Parents have a duty of care by law to make sure their child/ren receive an education. School have a duty of care by law to make sure their children receive an education.

At times school may ask for a doctor's note for reoccurring illnesses otherwise your child may incur an unauthorised absence mark. I need to stress that if the unauthorised absences for illness go above the amount accepted by the Local Authority, fines may be issued for these illnesses.

All holidays are **unauthorised** and **may** be subject to a fine from **Sefton Council**, (our school does not receive this money). There are 365 days in year and children are to attend school for 190 of these days. That leaves 175 days off school to spend with family and friends and to go on holidays. It is very hard and almost impossible for children to catch up on multiple days absent from school. Teachers are **not obliged** to send home work when children are on unauthorised holidays. School have a right to unauthorise an absence if we suspect that children are on holiday. Please be honest if you are taking your child away and complete a form at the office. It makes it very uncomfortable for children to lie to staff if they have been away.

As part of our school's commitment to improving attendance we offer termly attendance awards for children with 98% or above attendance. We also have year group weekly attendance awards. The year group with the highest weekly attendance gets a £10 cash reward. This money can be banked and once the class / year group feel they have a sufficient amount they can decide with the teacher the best way to spend it. These results are displayed in the sports hall. Our whole school target is 96%. In the summer of 2023 schools overall attendance was 94% which is lower than the average.

We want you to help us to get your children into school to help them make the best possible progress and to continue to improve our overall attendance by working together.

Yours sincerely

KScott

Mrs. K Scott
Headteacher