

Attendance Matters!



Every school day counts! Make attendance matter for your child by making sure they are in school every day, with no late-starts and no early pick-ups. We know that all children can become ill and Covid restrictions have prevented attendance at school but aiming for 96+% attendance gets your child off to a flying start and the best chance of success in their education.



ATTENDANCE FACTS Clearly, Covid has had a significant impact on schooling over the past two years as we have all had to contend with lockdowns. Hopefully, this is now behind us and 'business can begin to return to normal'. As of 24/02/22, Government guidance has changed although children should still isolate if they are positive as previously, in order to help contain the virus. Absences due to Covid are not included within school attendance data at the present time.

- All Parents (whether you live together or not) are responsible, by law, to ensure that their child regularly attends school. Unless your child is unwell, they should be in school EVERY DAY.
 - 90% or less attendance equates to children missing 4 or more weeks out of education across a school year which clearly gives these children less chance of success (both academically and socially). These children are also classed as 'Persistent Absentees' (i.e. they miss 10% or more of possible sessions) and Parents are at risk of being fined. This includes children who are persistently late in the morning.
 - Parents of children who have 15 unauthorised absences in a 2 term period can, and will, be fined; the fine is currently £60 per child per Parent (whether they live with the child or not). The fine rises to £120 if not paid within 21 days and, if not paid after 28 days, may result in a prosecution. If prosecuted, fines are up to £2,500, a community order or a jail sentence up to 3 months. The court also award Parenting Orders. Please note, fine notices are issued to both parents. Parents of children who are regularly late can also be fined.
- ⇒ We have a number of reward systems in place to promote good attendance including 'Perfect Attendance' and 'Attendance Ted'.
- ⇒ At the end of the 2021 academic year there were 10 children who achieved 100% attendance (i.e. when school was open to all / outside of lockdown periods) which was superb.
- ⇒ Whole school attendance at Oughton Primary at the present time is 95% with an overall absence rate of 5%. Our target is 96% (95% equates to children missing 9.5 days across the school year).
- ⇒ Mrs Clayton is currently meeting with all Parents whose child has 90% or less attendance this year in order to see what support can be put in place to improve this over the next 6 months in order for them to reach their potential.

TALK TO

If your child does not want to come to school because of something they are worried about, it is important that you bring them in as usual and talk to either their class teacher or another member of staff. If they do not come in, we cannot resolve any concerns and their absence cannot be authorised. Mrs Woollon, Pastoral Support Lead, is always happy to discuss any problems with children or parents. As previously, Mrs Woollon will be meeting with children with attendance below 92% on a one to one basis to discuss any support that can be put in place.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

AUTHORISED VERSUS UNAUTHORISED ATTENDANCE

The following absences will not be authorised:

- Absence for holidays in term-time.
- Absence for children with attendance below 90%, without **medical evidence** e.g. prescribed medication, appointment.
- Absence for a birthday or family celebration.
- Absence because of parent illness.
- Absence because a sibling is off school.



IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL

Please contact the office on **01462 450716** before 9am on each day of the absence or email us either through **attendance@oughton.herts.sch.uk** or Parentmail.

For the absence to be authorised please make sure that you complete the absence slip with the reason and any medical evidence on your child's return to school (available on website or from class teacher). Parents/carers will need to provide medical evidence for any children with attendance under 90% for the absence to be authorised.



MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

If your child has a hospital or emergency medical appointment, these will only be authorised if a letter, appointment card or text message is shown at the office.

Please make sure that, where possible, any medical appointments are made out of school hours. Doctors, dentists and opticians can usually accommodate this.

If your child has an appointment during the day, where possible, they should register at school beforehand and return after the appointment. Most appointments will only be authorised for half a day.



REMEMBER

Doors open at 08.45 with register at 9am. Please set your alarm so that your child is not late - there are no excuses for constant lateness, even a few minutes impacts on your child's attendance figures. School finishes at 3.15pm, please arrive promptly for collection.