

31st October 2022

Attendance

Dear parents,

As we begin the second half of the autumn term, we are sending home your child's registration certificate for the last half term which shows their attendance since we came back to school in September. You should receive this by email later today.

Our whole-school attendance for last half term is 94%. We would really like it to be 97% or better.

We like to think that we are very understanding when it comes to attendance and we absolutely understand that genuine illness cannot be avoided, especially at this time of year when winter bugs are rife. We also really appreciate you sticking to the '48-hour rule' with diarrhoea and vomiting to help minimise the spread of any bugs. That said, we also know that there are some occasions when absences could really be avoided and we are asking for your help to make sure as many children as possible are in school every day.

Attendance percentages can be misleading. At first glance, 90% attendance may seem quite good. However, the reality is that 90% attendance means that a 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.

The table below shows the amount of lost learning a child may have by missing school:

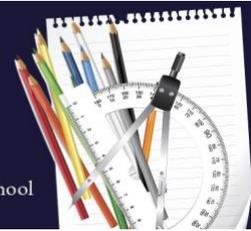
100% attendance	Zero days missed
99% attendance	Two days of absence across the year
97% attendance	Five days of absence across the year
95% attendance	Nine days of absence across the year: one week and four days of learning missed.
90% attendance	Nineteen days of absence across the year; three weeks and four days of learning missed
85% attendance	Twenty-eight days of absence across the year: five weeks and three days of learning missed.
80% attendance	Thirty-eight days of absence across the year: seven weeks and 3 days of learning missed.
75% attendance	Forty-six days of absence across the year: nine weeks and one day of learning missed.



Ashchurch Primary School

Ashchurch, Tewksbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 8LA
T: 01684 292376
E: admin@ashchurch.gloucs.sch.uk
W: ashchurchprimary.co.uk

@AshchurchSchool



Punctuality

Arriving at school on time and ready to learn is the best start to the day for our children. Remember that we have a 'soft start' to the day with drop off from 8.45am. The gates close promptly at 8.55am. Even being 5 minutes late per day can add up to over 3 school days missed across the year.

Minutes Late Per Day	How Many School Days/Weeks Missed In 1 Year
5 minutes late	3.4 school days missed a year
10 minutes late	1.4 school weeks missed a year
15 minutes late	2.6 school weeks missed a year
20 minutes late	2.8 school weeks missed a year
30 minutes late	4 school weeks missed a year

As above, we like to think that we are fairly 'human' when it comes to attendance –many of the staff have children themselves and we know that 'kids get ill'! We also know that many schools take a much firmer stance than we do! The hope is that by sharing your child's attendance % more regularly throughout the year, you will be able to keep an eye on 'lost learning' and support us in making sure all children are in school unless there is a genuinely unavoidable reason.

Medical Appointments

Where possible, please try to avoid medical / dental appointments during school time. We recognise that as the country recovers from covid, this isn't always possible. If you are able to arrange an appointment first thing in the morning, so they can come back to school afterwards; or towards the end of the day so they can leave a little early rather than having the whole day off, that would be appreciated.

Holidays

Holidays in term time should always be avoided.

Persistent Absence

The Department for Education and Local Authority refer to any child with attendance below 90% as a 'persistent absentee'. The school is expected to work with families and to have plans in place to support an improvement in attendance for these children. We will always do everything we can to encourage attendance, so please do always come and talk to us if you think there is anything we can do to help. Where these plans do not work, and attendance remains low or worsens, there is the potential for the Local Authority to issue parents with a Fixed Penalty Notice – something that we all hope never happens at Ashchurch!

As always, we really do appreciate your support in making sure as many children as possible are in school every day.

Mr Gibson & Mr Rickaby

