



Attendance and Punctuality Newsletter

Autumn 2 2018



This term, our whole school attendance was **95.3%**. This is better than last year but our attendance is still below our target of 96% for all pupils and too many of our pupils have low attendance – mainly due to holidays taken during term time and days off for illnesses which often do not require time off from school.

Put simply, having days off school affects your child's education. We have a target of 96% attendance for every child. If children are below 90% attendance, they are a Persistent Absentee and parents/carers can be subject to a penalty notice and court action.

Every School Day Counts

0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned
5 days absence over the whole year 97% - 100% Good chance of success and progress	20 days absence over the whole year 90% Less chance of success. Harder to make progress	20+ days absence over the whole year Under 90% Detrimental to success and progress

Every Minute Counts

LATENESS = LOST LEARNING

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 Minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 Minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 Minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 Minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 Minutes late each day	19 days lost!

Attendance Prizes

We had a very special attendance assembly to give out lots of prizes to pupils who were in school every day, on time, during our attendance fortnight. Over 170 children all received a prize, with five lucky winners also receiving a personalised book. Well done to all our prize winners! We'll have an attendance fortnight during the Spring & Summer Term so remember...you've got to be in to win!



A big thank you to Aquinas Education for our amazing prizes! We have lots of exciting new prizes – tickets to local attractions, vouchers, scooters, bikes and more, prizes for best classes each week and more!

Is my child too ill for school?

We understand that when feeling under the weather, staying at home can feel like the best form of recovery but as the NHS says, “**not every illness needs to keep your child from school.**” Often, children forget all about a cough or a cold when they are busy learning at school with their friends. We will always look after your child and contact you if they are unwell during the day.

Here are the recommendations from the NHS for common illnesses that we expect families to follow, unless there are further complications.

Symptom	Recommended period to be kept away from school
Diarrhoea and/ or vomiting	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
Conjunctivitis	None
Head lice	None
Tonsillitis	None
Glandular fever	None
Warts and Verrucae	None
Chickenpox	Until at least 5 days after the appearance of the chickenpox rash (blisters) and all the lesions have crusted over.
Hand, Foot and Mouth	None
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotics
General cough and/ or cold	None
Minor Headache	None
Sore throat	None

Am I allowed to take my child on holiday in term time?

The law says that parents **do not** have the right to take their child out of school for holidays in term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. These are very limited and are explained on our website and Attendance Policy. We have seen an increase in the number of parents and carers taking children on term time holidays.

Taking holidays during term time seriously affects a pupils learning. Parents are strongly urged to avoid booking family holidays during term time and in most cases, such holidays are not authorised by the school.

In the majority of cases, a term time holiday leads to school informing the Local Authority who may then issue a Penalty Notice of £60, per child, per parent/carer to be paid within 21 days, potentially rising to £120 per parent/carer.

Your child's attendance will also be closely monitored for the rest of the year with additional meetings with a senior leader and our Attendance Officer each term. Any further absences – for any reason – may require proof, such as a doctor's note, before being authorised.

Instances where parents/carers simply don't inform school of reason for absence, or give a false reason, can still result in a penalty notice being issued if we have reasonable grounds to believe the absence wasn't due to illness/exceptional circumstances. This has happened in the last year at our school and finding out the facts in such instances means our staff spend less time working with pupils.

You can keep up to date with all the celebrations and information, please look through

Arbrook's School Story on Class Dojo, Twitter, our website and newsletters.

Many thanks - Mrs. Pritchett & the Arbrook Attendance Team