



Attendance and Punctuality Newsletter

Autumn 2018



Last year our whole school attendance was **94.3%**. This means our school attendance was lower than schools nationally and below the national target of 96%. The good news is that our attendance improved last year by 0.3%. Let's keep going and make 2018-19 the year we reach 96%! We need your help and support to get there.

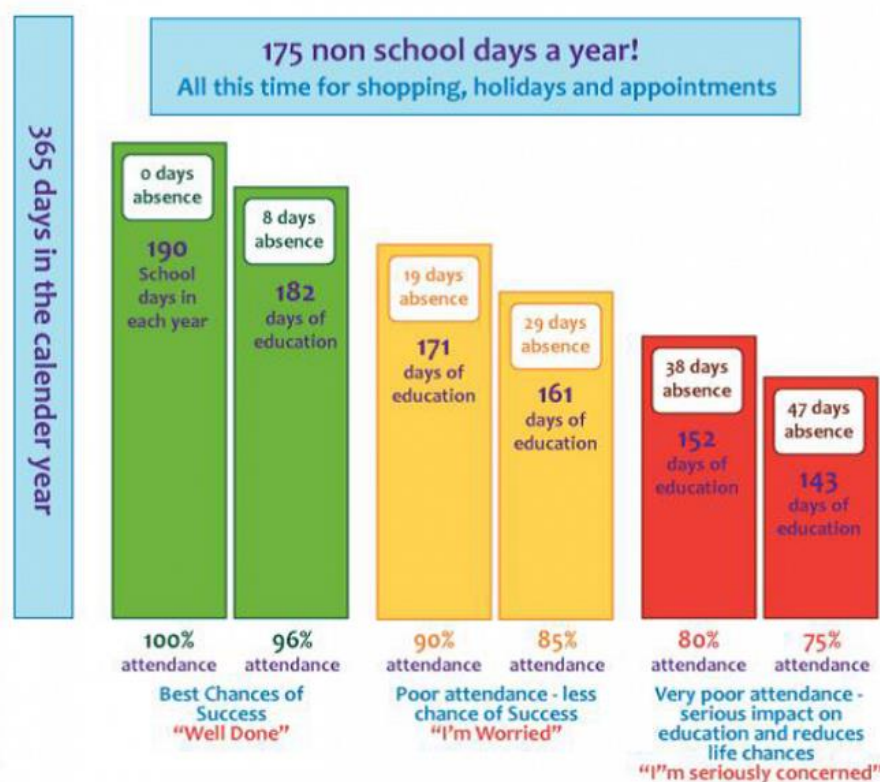
Attendance Prizes

We had a whole school attendance assembly in July with 12 children proudly receiving a pin badge, certificate and a stunning 'Well done' Chocolate egg for not missing a single day of school all year! There were also Amazon vouchers for children with excellent attendance during the summer term and most improved attendance, along with bags of chocolate coins!. Our grand prizes – an awesome scooter and brand-new bike, were won by Riley in Reception and Ollie in Year 3. Well done to all our prize winners!



A big thank you to Aquinas Education and Thornton's for our amazing prizes!

We are looking forward together with pupils and parents/carers to reach our 96% attendance target this academic year. We have lots of exciting new prizes – tickets to local attractions, vouchers, scooters, bikes and more, prizes for best classes each week and more!



Good attendance is important because:

- Your child needs to be in school to be able to learn and achieve.
- Lessons are taught in a sequence and it can be difficult to catch up if you miss a lesson.
- For children to have relationships with others and to form lasting friendships.
- For a child's confidence to attempt new work and to work alongside others

REMINDERS:

If your child is going to absent from school, please phone the school's attendance number, 0115 9649388, to speak to one of our attendance team. This phone is staffed from 8:30am -11:00am. If you are calling outside these times, or no one is available, then please leave a voicemail message. A big thank you to all parents/carers who keep the school informed on a daily basis when their child is absent. This helps us tremendously in the safeguarding of all children who attend Arnbrook.

In line with the 1996 Education Act, we expect all children on roll to attend school every day, when the school is in session, as long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so. Unsatisfactory explanations will result in unauthorised absence.

Examples of unsatisfactory explanations include:

- A pupils'/family member's birthday
- Not having uniform
- Closure of a sibling's school
- Illness where the child is considered well enough to attend school
- Illness of a family member
- Bus not running or car broken down

If your child has a doctor, hospital or dentist appointment during school time, please bring your child into school and collect at the time of the appointment or if the appointment is early morning, please bring your child back to school to reduce their lost learning time. We ask that you present the letter/appointment card in order for this absence to be authorised. All day absences will not be authorised.

If you do not report your child's absence, we will phone, text and write to you to ask where your child is. As part of our Safeguarding Policy we have to ensure all children who are not in school are safe, please help us to do this.

Punctuality

Arriving late is very unsettling for your child, and stops the teacher from working with other children. Please make sure they are here in plenty of time, remember our classrooms doors open at 8.40am but close promptly at 8.50am. If you arrive late, your child MUST be brought into school by an adult, a late slip needs to be completed and signed by the parent/carer.

Leave of Absence & Term- Time Holidays

From September 2013 the law changed and now states that parents do not have the right to take their child out of school for holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. We ask parents to recognise that pupil absence during term time can seriously affect a pupils learning. Parents are therefore strongly urged to avoid booking family holidays during term time.

Leave of absence which is taken for the following reasons will not be authorised and does not count as exceptional circumstance:

- Availability of cheaper holidays
- Availability of desired accommodation
- Overlap with beginning or end of term
- Booked the wrong dates by mistake or without checking
- Holidays taken without following school procedure
- Booked by another family member
- Attending a family wedding/birthday
- Availability of time off work

By law parents have to apply for permission in advance from the school. If your request is not covered by exceptional circumstances and you take your children out of school unauthorised we are required to inform the Local Authority who may then issue a Penalty Notice fine of £60, per child, per adult to be paid within 21 days, potentially rising to £120.

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

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

Many thanks - Mrs. Pritchett & the Arnbrook Attendance Team