

Dear Parent Carer,

Welcome to our first Attendance Update: Primary Edition.

The aim of this letter is to promote improved attendance for the pupils in our schools and to raise awareness of the importance of good school attendance. Each term we will be focusing on a topic related to attendance, this term it is assessing whether your child is too unwell to attend school. We will also keep you informed of attendance related projects and work in our schools.

The newsletter will be issued termly to all parents, we hope you find this helpful and informative.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”- Nelson Mandela.

Congratulations

We would like to thank and congratulate the many parents and carers which make sure that their children get the most out of their education by attending every day and arriving on time!

Our schools monitor pupils with attendance of 95% or under (equivalent to 10 missed school days over an academic year). In addition to individual attendance targets, each of our schools has an overall attendance target, there is still a way to go in many of our schools to hit our targets so we need your help.

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. At the end of this newsletter we have some useful tips on how to assess whether your child is too unwell to be in school, please have a read and ensure that your child is in school whenever they are well enough to be. If your child becomes unwell at school the school will send your child home. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school on the first day. Let them know that they won't be in and give them the reason.

There are two registration sessions in a school day so if you can, send them in later in the day- **every session counts!**

Attendance Ambassadors

We are excited to be rolling out the Attendance Ambassador Program across our primary schools. All children in year 5 and 6 will attend a workshop delivered by a member of the Education Welfare Team and have the opportunity to apply to become an Attendance Ambassador.

There will be a small group of pupils selected from each of the year 5 and 6 classes whom will help other children to enjoy and feel empowered by education and contribute towards school strategies to tackle poor school attendance- we look forward to sharing their ideas!

Inter-Schools Attendance Competition

Many of our schools have decided to take part in our new Inter-Schools Attendance competition, at the start of the Summer term we will be awarding trophies for our schools with the best overall and most improved attendance- Good luck to all of our schools!

Cheryl Croft • Education Welfare Manager • Email: ccroft@twhf.org.uk



Is my child too ill for school?

There are **government guidelines** for schools and nurseries that say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

The below guidance taken from the NHS website on common childhood illnesses. It is vital to follow this, as school will unauthorise your child's absence if they feel they are well enough to be in school:

Chickenpox

If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over.

This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis.

Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a fever or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their fever goes away.

Fever

If your child has a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes away.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child has hand, foot and mouth disease but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.

You should treat your child and send them into school.

Impetigo

If your child has impetigo, they'll need antibiotic treatment from the GP.

Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment.

Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share towels, cups and so on with other children at school.

Ringworm

If your child has ringworm, see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see the GP.

It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

If your child has scarlet fever, they'll need treatment with antibiotics from the GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.

Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have slapped cheek syndrome because once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious.

If you suspect your child has slapped cheek syndrome, take them to the GP and let their school know if they're diagnosed with it.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a fever, they should stay at home until it goes away.

Threadworms

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have threadworms.

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school for 2 days after their symptoms have gone.

Thank you for your support in helping to raise attendance, if you need support or advice relating to your child's attendance, please contact your child's school.