

# **Priority: The % attendance for children at the school increases further.**

## **Why is this a priority for us?**

The school has been working hard to improve the overall levels of school attendance for a number of years. Our main focus has been to address levels of attendance which have been below the average attendance levels achieved nationally (approximately 96%), and to ensure that we remain below national % for persistent absence measures.

A key area of concern for us is term-time holidays as over 40% of our pupils have had time away from school for this reason.

## **What impact is this having?**

Over the last few years, our close monitoring of, and targeted action towards, improving individual attendance rates has helped us to achieve a steady improvement in attendance for the school overall.

Similarly, this close individual focus has seen the percentage of persistent absentees fall below national % in all measures.

We are severely affected by families taking unauthorised holidays in term time. The school works hard to dissuade term-time holidays which currently account for approximately a third of all pupil absence in school.

## **What are we doing?**

The school closely monitors whole school, individual and group attendance on a daily basis. This information is used to inform our intervention strategy.

As a whole school, we publish a weekly Attendance League in our Friday News; this is also displayed in the hall. The class with the highest attendance wins a 'free playtime'.

We band attendance into Gold (98%+), Silver (97-98%) and Bronze (95-96%) levels - all children who achieve these bands by the end of the year receive an Attendance Certificate, a Book Bank Cheque and entry into the Attendance Prize Draw.

Using the regular monitoring of individual attendance, we issue letters to parents where the overall attendance level or the percentage of broken weeks is a concern. This letter is designed to have minimal text and clear graphical images showing our concerns relative to the national picture and the financial cost of the education which has been missed. This letter will invite the parent in to discuss our concerns with Mrs Daylak or Mr Higgs.

We buy in a support package and use this to pursue individual case concerns where our in-house actions have not been successful in achieving positive changes.

Following consultation with parents and governors about the introduction of fines for term-time holidays, this is planned to begin in the Autumn term.