

MALMESBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Attendance Newsletter – 21st March 2024

Dear families,

Welcome to this attendance special newsletter; the aim is to promote the importance of attendance across the school community. It is vital that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance and punctuality at school so that they can enjoy their learning and socialising with their peers.

Our School Attendance Target – 96%

From the beginning of the school year until the end of February, our overall attendance from Year 1 to Year 6 is at **94%** - below our school target.

Across the UK, primary school attendance has dropped with Tower Hamlets currently the lowest National attendance 152/152 Boroughs.

What does this mean? Why does this matter?

Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons

100% - 96%
Excellent!

95% - 90%
Cause for Concern

90% or Below
Drastic effect on academic achievement

Out of 356 days in a year - there are **175 non-school days** - this is a perfect time for holidays, appointments and mini-breaks!

September 2024 - February 2025 Attendance

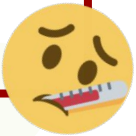
Working together to make every day count....

Nursery	87.2%
Reception	89.6%
Year 1	94.1%
Year 2	94.9%
Year 3	93.8%
Year 4	93.5%
Year 5	93.7%
Year 6	94.1%

Why are we behind in our targets?

A number of reasons attribute to having low attendance in a school, but these were our top 3:

- Norovirus
- Term Time Leave (Holidays)
- Unexplained Absences



You can't build a great building on a weak foundation. You must have a solid foundation if you're going to have a strong superstructure.

Gordon B. Hinckley

Did you know...?

Missing 5 days can have a big impact on your child's learning.

5 days off is the equivalent of missing:

- 8+ hours of writing and reading
- 6+ hours of maths
- 7.5+ hours of specific curriculum learning
- 8+ hours of playtime and PE

Although we will try our best to fill in any gaps to children's learning, it becomes more challenging for everyone once a child falls below 95% attendance.

Working Together to Improve Attendance

As a school community, we all want what is best for our children and for them to become successful future members of our community. When children are in school, they are beginning to build healthy relationships and developing the necessary social and perseverance skills they will need as they grow into adulthood.

As a school, we will be following our duty of care to ensure that all children are given their right to a full, quality education.

Absences through Illness

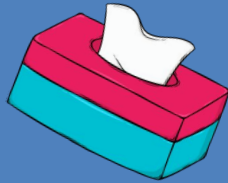
We understand and appreciate that children can become ill and that it is not always easy to decide whether to send them into school or keep them at home. In our Attendance Policy, it suggests to:

Stay home:

- Child is bedridden
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea

Come to school:

- Cough
- Runny nose
- Allergies / Asthma
- Muscle aches, toothaches, headaches
- Tiredness



If you are unsure, please feel free to talk with our Medical Lead Ruth - she is here to help!

Medications can be administered at school if given to Ruth at the beginning of the day. Please complete a consent form and ensure the medication is in the original container.

If you are still unsure, the NHS have an excellent webpage that can help you decide whether or not to send your child to school for a variety of illnesses:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Attendance is a SAFEGUARDING issue.

It is our responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every pupil.

Following procedures and contacting parents/carers regularly is our legal responsibility to make sure every child is protected.

School Procedures – Absences

- Absences need to be called in by 9:00 a.m.
- If there is no contact, the office will be calling to follow-up for an explanation.
 - This is a requirement by law for us to do to ensure the safety of all children.
- If we have not been able to contact you after 2 days, the Safeguarding Team will carry out a home visit.

Mornings

- Gates open at 8:40 am
- Lessons begin at 8:50 am

End of the Day

Gates open and children go home at 3:15 pm

DON'T FORGET

Holidays During School

Please read the extended leave information in our school policy. It is important we work in partnership to maximise the time children have in school. Our children have roughly 13 weeks holiday a year, their time in school is precious learning and socialising time. At the start of terms we introduce key learning and at the end of terms we celebrate all that we have achieved, often with special events. These times all matter.