

MALMESBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Attendance Newsletter – 19th January 2024

Dear families,

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

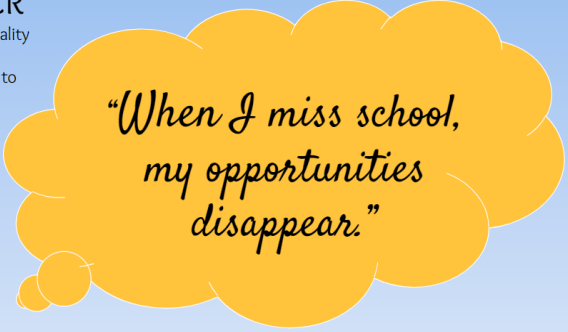
Our School Attendance Target – 96%

As with many schools after COVID, there has been a national drop in school attendance for a variety of reasons – Malmesbury is no exception.

This past Autumn term, we've had a total of 3955 absences and 633 lates – our goal is to try to reduce these as much as possible so that we can maximise on every child's learning, development and progression.

Article 28 UNCR

You have the right to good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level.



*"When I miss school,
my opportunities
disappear."*

Autumn's Attendance –

Working together to make every day count...

Windsors	94%
Edwardians	93%
Victorians	94%
Georgians	95%
Yorkists	94%
Lancastrians	93%
Stuarts	94%
Tudors	95%
Vikings	96%
Normans	94%
Lionhearts	91%
Danes	88%
Saxons	93%
Romans	95%
Green Dinos	86%
Red Dinos	88%
Orange Dinos	83%
Blue Dinos	87%

As a school, we strive towards high expectations to help encourage and support children to come into school.

When children are in school each day and are on time...

- They begin to embed life-long values, such as responsibility, high expectations, achievement and confidence in themselves and prepares them for later in life.
- They achieve academically as they are accessing learning from the start of the day and are not missing any key learning. We often start each day with reading, writing, maths practice.
- They are continuously building social skills with their peers and adults alike which helps them develop respect, equality and honesty.
- It helps support a healthy mental well-being as it allows children to connect, stay active and learn something new each day.

Absences through Illness

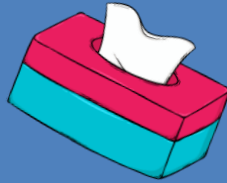
We understand and appreciate that children can become ill and that it is not always easy to decide whether to send them into school or keep them at home. In our Attendance Policy, it suggests to:

Stay home:

- High temperature above 37.5°C
- Child is bedridden
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea

Come to school:

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



There are exceptions to the above under special circumstances or with advice from a doctor or Ruth.

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/>

School Procedures - Absences

- Any non-attendance needs to be explained 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.

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.

A date for your diary!!

February, Tuesday 27th - 9:00 am

The school nurse, Farah Azima, will be having a coffee morning at Malmesbury to discuss childhood illnesses.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES - UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES



Please read the extended leave information on our website. 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.



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



100%
PERFECTION

96%+
VERY GOOD

At this level, you give yourself the best chance of achieving your potential. 96% equals 7.5 days absence in a year.

93% - 95.9%
COULD BE BETTER

95% means a half-day missed every 2 weeks. In a year, that's 43 lessons to catch up on.

90.1% - 92.9%
IMPROVEMENT REQUIRED

92% equals 3 weeks of lost learning every year. Between Y7 and Y11, this means 15 weeks lost in total.

90% and below
PERSISTENTLY ABSENT

At 90%, you have missed almost 100 lessons in a year. Attendance at 90% each year means that by Y11, you will have missed out on 6 months learning.

Celebrating Attendance!

One of the best parts of the day is greeting Malmesbury children each and every morning. We celebrate every child that comes through our doors – late or not...we are happy to see them all!

Rewarding great and improved attendance is always being adapted at Malmesbury – we want to celebrate those pupils and classes who come in everyday as well as be as inclusive as possible for all pupils.

What do we celebrate?

- Each week in Celebration Assembly, we celebrate the class with the best attendance from their phase.
- If a class achieves 100% attendance for an entire week, they all get a special treat! With the cold weather, 4 classes (Danes, Tudors, Stuarts and Red Dinos) have enjoyed hot chocolate!
- We'll also have special 100% attendance weeks to put a spotlight on our attendance. At the end of these weeks, we'll recognise every child who has been in school every day that week.
- At the end of each half-term, the class with the best attendance for their phase receives the coveted golden trophy! Their class teachers celebrate this with some Golden Time.
- At the end of the year, any child who achieves 100% attendance for an entire year will be presented with a gold medal!



We are committed to the education, development and progression of all the children at Malmesbury. We have a duty of care to ensure they are safe, healthy and striving to BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE!



Celebrations are exciting and provide an incentive for some children.

However...the best reward for excellent attendance is being able to learn something new each day.

And...they are HAVING FUN! The variety of opportunities available that children learn from each day