

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

- **So 90% attendance is good?**
It's not bad but should be a lot better. Any less than 90% and your child cannot do their best
- **So what is poor attendance?**
Education Welfare Officers work closely with school attendance and become very concerned at 86% and below, legal action may be taken in some cases.
- **What do these figures mean?**
90% attendance at the end of a school year means your child has been absent on **19 days**
86% attendance at the end of a school year means your child has been absent on **26.5 days**
- **What does Persistent Absence mean?**
In simple terms any child that continues to have low attendance through the year will have persistent absence. Lots of odd days illness that break many school weeks will cause this.
- **What does Genuine Illness mean?**
High Temperatures, Diarrhoea and Sickness, Childhood ailments e.g. measles, tonsillitis are genuine illness. A child should not be kept home with minor coughs, colds, tummy aches and headaches etc.
- **My child is entitled to 10 days holiday each year.**
NO the Government frowns on holidays being taken in term time. A Headteacher *may* authorise up to 10 days but only if they feel there is no direct impact on a child's education. **10 days** absence means **95% attendance** (this allows only 9 days over the year for illness).
- **Can I take long weekends and odd days as holidays?**
Not really, again the Government does not encourage this. Too many Mondays and Fridays missed would not be good for achievement. You cannot request a holiday for a day out e.g. birthday treat.
- **What does Zero Tolerance mean?**
Holidays will not be authorised during the first two weeks in September and SATs week.
- **What does a Penalty Notice mean?**
The Local Authority can fine each Parent £50 for each child. This means a family with two parents and two children could face a fine of £200 for unauthorised absence.
- **Can a fine be paid in instalments?**
NO a fine must be paid in full within 4 weeks or it will double. Failure to pay at all will lead to prosecution.

Remember:

If you want your child to do his/her best they must be in school at least 90% of the time. That means no more than 19 days in one school year.

We want your child to do his/her best and will not authorise holidays unless they have a history of 90% attendance.

To achieve 90% don't allow your child to stay home with minor ailments, shopping trips etc.