

Weston Park Primary School

Attendance Newsletter

September 2019

Attendance Update

Welcome to the first attendance newsletter of the year. I hope you find useful information, helpful tips, pointers and exciting news in this newsletter. Let's start with how we are doing as a school. Our whole school attendance is currently 94.7% this is a considerable decline on this time last years' attendance which was 95.8%. We are below national average of 96% and this is something that we need your help in achieving.

As always, I am available to discuss any attendance or punctuality concerns that you may have regarding your child and can offer support and advice on a range of school attendance related issues.

Tasha Coleman - Attendance Officer

Absence Reporting



If your child is absent from school please contact the school office as soon as possible EVERYDAY - There is a 24 hour voicemail service on 02380 448962 or you are able to use the Studybugs app. Please download the app, or register on the Studybugs website www.studybugs.com. This is a fast, free service. Also, it is very important that the office have your up to date telephone number. Please update if you make any changes to contact numbers.



Lateness

It really is vital to be on time so that your child does not miss out on important class time. Getting up late, problems with buses, stopping in the shops, parking issues and matters with other siblings are not acceptable reasons for lateness.

Children who arrive late often can find it very unsettling to try and join in with a session that has already started. Please can I remind you that school starts at 8.55am. To help you with drop offs the doors are open at 8.40am.

100% Attendance Draw

All children who achieve 100% in a half term, and have not been late, will have their name put into a prize draw. This academic year we have teamed up with Dominos Pizza and they have kindly donated a £20 voucher for the lucky winner.



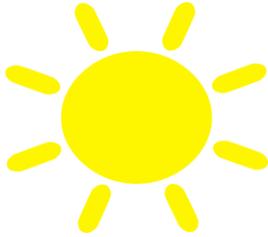


Rewarding good attendance



In our weekly celebration assemblies Attendance Ted and Attendance Frog are awarded to the class in each year with the highest attendance (provided the total is above our target of 96%). The class that wins is responsible for looking after Ted or Frog for an entire week; they also get a certificate to display in their classroom.

Holidays in term time



Throughout the school year we receive a number of requests from parents for permission to take their child out of school for a family holiday. In line with Government legislation we cannot authorise any absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. A family holiday or a surprise holiday booked without your knowledge does not fall into the category of "exceptional circumstances".

We would like to remind you that if you take holiday during term time we must inform the local authority and they may take legal action against you. Last year 43 Penalty Notices were issued for holidays taken during term time.

If you wish to request an absence from school you should:

- notify the school in writing, an exceptional circumstances form is available from the office
- be honest when stating your reason for the absence
- clearly state the expected date of return

Your honesty makes it easier to advise and support you in the best way possible. Simply not sending your child to school with no explanation could result in Education Welfare and the Local Authority being notified your child is missing from education and their school place being lost.

Be in that number

We are again this year working alongside Southampton Football Club to promote the importance of good attendance. At the end of each term, we can nominate two pupils for an award. One will be for a pupil with outstanding attendance and the other for a pupil who has shown an improvement in attendance over that term. Each winner will receive a certificate and a small gift from Southampton Football Club. As well as this all of the winners will be put in a hat to win bonus prizes such as: Sammy the Saint will visit a school, tickets for a family to attend a SFC game and Stadium tours.

Our last nominations actually received an evening at Saint Marys and a tour of the stadium

