



# Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Embracing the uniqueness of each child by God's message of love

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS NEWSLETTER

January 2023

Hello and welcome to the first issue of the Attendance Matters Newsletter. We are working closely with Warwickshire County Council to improve and promote attendance and as part of this strategy we have launched an Attendance Newsletter. The aim of this newsletter is to:

- Continue to raise awareness of the importance of good attendance
- Inform parents/carers of the school's policies and procedures
- Inform parents/carers/carers of the school's current attendance figure
- Provide helpful tips on getting your child to school on time
- Promote the rewards for pupils who attend every day and on time

This newsletter will be issued termly to all parents - We hope you will find this helpful and informative.

### Whole School Attendance

Term 1

Whole School: 95.7%

Reception: 96.5%

Year 1: 93.8%

Year 2: 95.3%

Year 3: 95.6%

Year 4: 95.9%

**Year 5: 96.6%**

Year 6: 95.6%

### Attendance Target

**96%**



### Reporting Absence

It is a parent/carer's responsibility to notify school before 9:30am if their child is absent. A valid reason must be provided.



### Working Together

We will be working with you to keep you updated on your child's attendance by sending out letters at key points to inform you of your child's attendance should it go below 96% or 90%, when we would invite you to a meeting to find ways to work together to support your child's attendance.

## Rewards

Weekly announcements in Celebration Assembly and the Newsletter for the Year Group Attendance winners. A certificate to celebrate this on the door of the winning class. Look out for other rewards as the term progresses.

## Attendance Matters



## Is my child too ill for school?

There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, well being and socialisation for children. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.

We know it can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. Government guidelines state that it is usually appropriate for you to send your child to school with mild illness. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. We would encourage you to read the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) to help when considering if your child really needs to be absent from school.

5 minutes late every day  
10 minutes late every day  
15 minutes late every day  
30 minutes late every day

3 days lost each year  
6 days lost each year  
10 days lost each year  
19 days lost each year

## The School Day

A reminder that the school day starts promptly at 8.55am. The school gates are open at 8.45am to allow the children to get in with plenty of time to be settled. The register closes at 9am. If your child arrives after this, they will be marked absent. This will affect their overall attendance percentage. The school day finishes at 3.15pm. The table below demonstrates how much school time children miss if they are absent. It is surprising how this adds up. We are fully aware that there are times when illness causes unavoidable absence from school. The aim of this initiative is the positive promotion of attendance for all.

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is....	over 13 years schooling
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Over 8 years

## Good attendance is important because ...

Statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school and studies show that children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically. With the focus and development on the curriculum that has taken place at school, then children who are absent will find gaps in their sequential knowledge.

## Punctuality is important because ...

There is a clear link between attendance and attainment; the more time a pupil spends in school the more likely they are to improve their opportunity to fulfil their full potential.

### **Being on time is a good thing!**

- Gets the day off to a good start with everyone in a positive frame of mind.
- Helps your child make the most of their learning and sets positive patterns for the future.
- Helps children develop a sense of responsibility both for themselves and for others
- Helps your child make and keep friends.
- Improves self confidence.

### **The impact of being Late!**

- Gets the day off to a bad start and can affect mood
- Can be embarrassing
- May impact on your child's confidence
- Children miss vital information at the start of the day
- Disrupts the learning