



THE BLUE SKY FEDERATION



Attendance Matters!

February 2025

Autumn Term Attendance Celebration

I was delighted to write out so many attendance certificates for the Autumn term!

81 children (25%) at Summerfield achieved 100% attendance, with a massive 173 children (53%) being awarded a certificate for attendance over 96%.

At Heelands, 10 children (13%) achieved 100% attendance and 28 children (35%) had attendance of 96% and above. Heelands were rather struck down with a lot of illness. Hopefully the bugs will stay away and I can write even more certificates in a few weeks time!

Mrs Stuart (Attendance & Behaviour Lead)

Summerfield attendance up to 14th February was 94.8%.

Squirrels — 80.6%
Butterflies — 92.1%
Bees — 92%
Ants — 95.7%
Fireflies — 96.1%
Penguins — 96.9%
Polar bears — 95.1%
Lions — 95.5%
Tigers — 95%
Badgers — 95.5%
Otters — 95.9%
Eagles — 95.9%
Owls — 95.8%
Sharks — 93.9%
Dolphins — 96.3%

**Well done,
Penguins and Dolphins!**

Heelands attendance up to 14th February was 93.04%

Ash— 92.86% Maple— 93.36% Oak— 92.86%

Come on Heelands! You can do better than this!

Spotlight on Lateness

Good punctuality is just as important as good attendance. Vital tasks are set at both schools for the children to engage with as soon as the classroom doors open in the morning. We often use this time to hear extra readers as well as working on basic skills. This is why we urge all children to enter the school as soon as they can in the morning—**Summerfield 8:45am, Heelands 8:30am.**

In order to be marked as present, and on time, at **Summerfield**, the child must be in class by 9am. They are considered late if they arrive between 9am and 9.15am. The register closes at 9.15am, arrival after this time will be recorded as an absence.

In order to be marked as present, and on time, at **Heelands**, the child must be in class by 8.40am. They are considered late if they arrive between 8.40am and 8.55am. The register closes at 8.55am, arrival after this time will be recorded as an absence.



As per the attendance policy, after **4** lates, parents will be written to. If there is no improvement, parents will be asked in to a meeting to discuss any issues there may be causing the lateness. **Fixed penalty notices will be issued when a child has been recorded late on 6 occasions in a 12-week period.**

What can parents and children do to improve attendance?

- Go on holiday during the 14 weeks allocated a year, **NOT** during term time.
- If a child wakes up feeling a bit under the weather, send them in. We **WILL** send them home if they're not well enough to attend. Children should be really poorly to miss school. They should **NOT** be kept off because they have a runny nose, sore throat or intermittent cough.
- A temperature is considered anything higher than 37.7°C. Try giving your child some Calpol to see if this brings their temperature down. Thermometers in school can check if their temperature rises again.
- Arrange haircuts, doctors appointments, dentist appointments, shopping trips and special trips either after school, at weekends or during holidays.
- Come and talk to the attendance team (Mrs Stuart, Mrs Carey- Summerfield, Mrs Farmer - Heelands) or your child's class teacher if you need support getting your child into school everyday, on time.

Percentage attendance	Days absent in a year	Impact on child's success at school	Future potential
100% excellent	None	Pupils with these levels of attendance should achieve their full potential and have a really good start in life.	Very good chance of 5 or more pass grades at GCSE
96% good	6 days = 12 sessions		
95%	10 days = 20 sessions	Pupils with this attendance are likely to achieve their targets but will have to work harder to get there.	75% chance of 5 x pass grades at GCSE
90% unsatisfactory	19 days = 38 sessions	Pupils at 90% have missed almost a whole month of school and are in real danger of falling behind in Maths and English. They will have a lot to catch up on and it will be difficult for them to achieve their best.	50% chance of 5 x pass grades at GCSE.
Below 90% poor	Between 4 and 6 weeks missed	Deemed 'persistent absence' and must be reported to the authority.	
85% serious concern	29 days = 58 sessions equivalent to 6 weeks or a whole half term.	This time cannot be made up and pupils will find it very difficult to achieve the best that they could.	Less than 30% chance of 1 – 5 pass grades at GCSE

The equivalent of 1 week a term for a child's school life equates to 1 whole year of schooling missed – this can never be regained and limits a child's potential for success

We understand that some children have on-going medical conditions requiring regular hospital appointments. These will, obviously, always be authorised. Please ensure the school is informed about medical conditions that may regularly affect attendance.