



THE BLUE SKY FEDERATION



Attendance Matters! November 2024

Attendance Challenge 2024!



It was brilliant to see so many children at both schools enjoying the bouncy castle when they competed five weeks in school for the attendance challenge in June.

Many hundreds of certificates were written for both schools in July. Children received one for achieving 96% and above or 100% attendance for the school year. Remember, we celebrate every term those children who have had good attendance.

Summerfield attendance up to 25th October was 96.1%.

- Squirrels— 82%
- Butterflies—96.3%
- Bees—94.2%
- Ants— 97.8%
- Fireflies— 95.4%
- Penguins— 98.6%
- Polar bears— 97.1%
- Lions— 96.6%
- Tigers— 96.8%
- Badgers— 96.4%
- Otters— 97.5%
- Eagles— 95%
- Owls—97.7%
- Sharks— 93.5%
- Dolphins— 97.7%

Well done, Penguins!

Heelands attendance up to 25th October was 96.6%

Ash— 95.1% Maple — 97.1% Oak— 96.6%

Well done, Maple!

Attendance Monitoring

The attendance team meets every half term to review the attendance and punctuality of all children in school. We look at the attendance for the academic year so far. For those children who have attendance below 95%, we will then look at attendance for the past six months (looking into the last school year when appropriate).

As per the attendance policy, the following will happen:

Stage One letter—alerting the parent/ carer to the poor attendance of the child

Stage Two— A phone call from Mrs Stuart (attendance lead) to discuss any issues, and how school and home can work together to improve the child's attendance. Medical evidence will be required for any illness to be authorised from this point.

Stage Three— Attendance interview in school followed by a school attendance warning letter

Stage Four— A fixed penalty notice (fine) will be issued or a PACE meeting with the senior attendance officer for the local authority will take place, where a caution will be issued. Further monitoring will then done by the local authority and may lead to prosecution.

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 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 absent – 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.