

'A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together'

Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

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1st July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we end this current academic year and begin to embark on another exciting school year, I would like to take a moment to highlight the critical importance of regular attendance for your child's academic and social development.

Why Attendance Matters:

- 1. Academic Success:** Regular attendance is directly linked to academic performance. Pupils who attend school consistently are more likely to keep up with daily lessons and assignments, and therefore, achieve higher grades. Each day of school is an important step in their educational journey.
- 2. Social Skills:** Being present in school allows children to develop essential social skills, such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. These skills are cultivated through interactions with peers and teachers and are vital for their overall development.
- 3. Building a Routine:** Consistent attendance helps children develop a sense of structure and discipline. Establishing a regular routine is crucial for creating lifelong habits that contribute to success in both academic and personal endeavours.

How You Can Help:

- 1. Establish a Routine:** Set a consistent bedtime and morning routine to ensure your child is well-rested and prepared for the school day.
- 2. Prepare for School the Night Before:** Encourage your child to pack their school bag and lay out their clothes the night before to minimize morning rush and stress.
- 3. Promote Healthy Habits:** Ensure your child eats a balanced diet, gets plenty of sleep, and exercises regularly. A healthy child is more likely to attend school regularly.
- 4. Communicate with the School:** If your child must miss school due to illness or other legitimate reasons, please inform the school as soon as possible. Holidays are not legitimate reasons and will therefore be unauthorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Attendance Policy:

We understand that there may be occasions when your child is unable to attend school due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances. However, it is important to remember that chronic absenteeism can significantly impact your child's learning experience. As a school, we monitor school attendance tracking any pupil who falls below 95%, which is the trust target.

Any pupil who falls below 90% will be monitored half termly and letters will be sent from the school outlining your child's attendance. This is also monitored by our Attendance Officer who works for Cheshire East, Elisha Woleston. Meetings are regularly held between the school and the attendance officer during which



we look at persistent absence (below 90%) and any patterns of attendance such as regular Monday and Friday absences and children within the same family being off at the same time particularly if this falls before or after a holiday.

Our school policy requires parents to notify the school of any absences and an absence form needs to be completed should your child be absent from school for any reason other than an illness.

Holidays during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. From August 2024, there are changes to penalty notices for school absences as listed in the new National Framework of Penalty Notices for School Absence coming into effect. This is alongside the new Statutory Working Together to Improve School Attendance which comes into force on 19th August 2024.

The attached one-page document from Cheshire East explains the changes to the new National Framework for Penalty Notices.

Let us work together to ensure that your child has the best possible chance to succeed. Your cooperation and support in promoting regular school attendance are greatly appreciated. If you have any concerns or need assistance regarding your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact our school office.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nic Badger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'N' and 'B'.

Nic Badger

Principal of Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School
EHT for Rural Church Schools Academy Trust