

## Attendance Matters – Autumn 1 Newsletter

### Together, Every Day Counts

#### Did You Know?

Students who attend school regularly are **more likely to achieve better outcomes** and build stronger friendships. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/link-between-attendance-and-attainment>

#### Academic Achievement:

- Pupils with **95–100% attendance** at Key Stage 2 were **1.3 times more likely** to meet expected standards in reading, writing, and maths than those with 90–95% attendance
- At Key Stage 4, students with 95–100% attendance were **1.9 times more likely** to achieve a **Grade 5** in English and Maths GCSEs
- Missing just **10 days** in Year 6 can reduce the chance of meeting expected standards by **25%**, and in Year 11, it can cut the likelihood of achieving a Grade 5 by **50%**

#### Social and Emotional Development:

- Regular attendance helps students build **stronger friendships**, develop **better communication skills**, and feel a **greater sense of belonging** in school

#### Long-Term Life Outcomes:

- Each additional day of absence in secondary school is linked to a **£750 reduction** in future earnings
- Higher absence rates increase the likelihood of **long-term unemployment** and **benefit dependency** by age 28

### Our Current Attendance Stats

- **Whole School: 97.1%** (2024/2025: 94.99%)
- **Target: 96%+**  
Let's work together to keep this up!

### Class Attendance Champions

Each fortnight we will be celebrating each class who has the highest attendance in that time!

We will also be celebrating classes and attendance who make progress over time.

#### Example reward

 They'll earn a reward for their efforts!

### 100% Attendance Rewards

Students with **100% attendance** each half term will receive a raffle ticket for an end of term prize draw!

### Spotlight on Punctuality

## **Attendance Letter: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Did you know?

Being **10 minutes late every day = 33 hours of lost learning** per year!

Let's aim to be **on time, every time.**

### **Top Tips for Better Attendance**

- Set a consistent **bedtime and morning routine**
- Prepare school bags and uniforms the night before
- Do not book holidays during term time

### **DfE Guidance**

**DfE statutory guidance is clear:** holidays during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Unavoidable leave of absence requests for school-aged children are generally related to one off events that are rare, significant, unavoidable, and short in duration. Family holidays are not considered unavoidable

Taking your child out of school without permission may result in a **Penalty Notice** being issued.

### **What this means:**

- A Penalty Notice may be issued if your child has **unauthorised absences**, including holidays.
- The fine is **£80 per child, per parent** if paid within 21 days, rising to **£160** if paid within 28 days.
- Failure to pay may result in prosecution.
- There is **no right of appeal**—if you believe a notice was **issued in error**, you must contact the school directly.

We understand that holidays are important for family time, but we are legally required to prioritise your child's education and wellbeing. Every school day counts.

*If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days*

*If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days.*

*Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.*

**Attendance Letter: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

*Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.*

*Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.*

*Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.*

If you have any questions or need to discuss exceptional circumstances, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr McDonald  
Head of School