

**SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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## **Attendance Matters**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Dear families,

As you are aware school attendance is vitally important and a legal requirement. We know that the last two years have been incredibly challenging and that they have, naturally, affected the rates of attendance in school for the whole community. Since September, and the removal of bubbles, the school has been monitoring attendance as normal. In line with our constant high standards in this area and our desire to support every child to reach their full potential we have kept our school target of 97.5%. Our current attendance level is 96.2% which is below the school target but well above national and local averages at this complex time.

Whilst we are pleased with attendance overall, a recent internal review and some external support from our new Education Welfare Officer (EWO), Mr Buckle, we have identified some pupils who we would like to support further to ensure that every child attends school regularly, on time and is ready to learn well. We know that COVID and testing are having an impact on most pupils and their attendance rates. We also know that the guidance must be followed to the letter so prolonged absences due to COVID have been factored into the process of this review. It is also very difficult to see a doctor at the moment so some families are keeping children away from school until they have received the medical advice they need. Please continue to attend school as much as possible and contact us for advice if you are unsure, even if you are awaiting a formal medical appointment.

We have noted that the two classes with the lowest attendance are F1 and Y6. These are two vitally important year groups for pupils for very different reasons! The next two terms for Y6 pupils are vital as we move towards the SATS assessments and provide many life skills that will support pupils in the next steps of their educational journey and later life. Each week is planned as a unit of work so pupils who regularly miss an odd day here or there are missing crucial content and thus affecting academic progress and achievement. A child who regularly misses an odd day is left feeling like they are playing a new board game without the rules! Every single day matters and pupils must attend as much as possible.

Punctuality is also vital to a child's development and it ensures that children receive their full educational experience. Late marks affect the learning and progress of the whole class so it is vital that parents play their part in eradicating any punctuality issues immediately. The start of term was magnificent in terms of punctuality but we have had regular late marks since the start of December. Let's get back on track with this area please! Please ensure that all children are in school and on time to maximise the learning potential of all children at Springvale.

If your child's level of attendance or punctuality is a concern then we will send home a copy of this letter through the post with the concern noted and their current registration certificate. Please note that our new EWO will be regularly reviewing attendance and punctuality issues with school leaders and they may contact you by telephone or letter if concerns persist or arise.

Thank you for your co-operation and support,

**Kind Regards**

**Mr L McClure**

**Headteacher**