

School Matters!



WATERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Percentage Attendance figure achieved this year is

95.71%

Welcome everyone to this year's last attendance newsletter for 2018/2019. It has been a busy year tracking the attendance in school and I would like to say THANK YOU SO MUCH to those families who have been working hard to ensure children's punctuality and attendance is high this year. THANK YOU for getting these important habits established early on in your child's life as it will make a difference in their futures. We appreciate you getting to school on time so that children can begin learning on time and so that other children's learning isn't affected by late comers. There is a link between attendance and achievement and therefore it is very important that your child attends school every day unless there are exceptional circumstances. We have improved on last year's overall figure (2017/2018) of 94.36%. This is a great achievement well done everyone!

Month	School attendance % so far this year	Attendance % at the same time last year	Persistent Absence %	Class with the highest % attendance
Autumn Term				
September 2018	<u>97.10%</u>	<u>94.33%</u>	<u>0.4%</u>	<u>YRS 1 & 4</u>
October 2018	<u>96.50%</u>	<u>93.28%</u>	<u>0.4%</u>	<u>YR 4</u>
November 2018	<u>95.24%</u>	<u>94.03%</u>	<u>0.3%</u>	<u>YR 2</u>
December 2018	<u>95.31%</u>	<u>92.25%</u>	<u>0.4%</u>	<u>YR 2</u>
Spring Term				
January 2019	<u>96.09%</u>	<u>94.20%</u>	<u>0.4%</u>	<u>YR 4</u>
February 2019	<u>92.90%</u>	<u>93.30%</u>	<u>0.9%</u>	<u>YR 2</u>
March 2019	<u>97.00%</u>	<u>94.82%</u>	<u>0.4%</u>	<u>YR 2</u>
Summer Term				
April 2019	<u>95.58%</u>	<u>95.06%</u>	<u>0.5%</u>	<u>YR 6</u>
May 2019	<u>96.95%</u>	<u>94.57%</u>	<u>0.9%</u>	<u>YR 6</u>
June 2019	<u>95.10%</u>	<u>94.41%</u>	<u>1.5%</u>	<u>YR2</u>

BREAKDOWN OF ATTENDANCE FOR 2018-2019

In this final Newsletter I wanted to give a breakdown of some of the things we track in school in relation to attendance. For some parents attendance and getting their children to school on time is not a problem and we applaud you for supporting the school. There are a few families at Waterside who struggle to get their children to school and who are habitually late and this is a problem we as a school are trying to improve, but this can only improve if families try and engage with the school.

Ofsted highlighted the attendance as something that has improved at Waterside;

Attendance has improved and is now nearly in line with national averages. Since the previous inspection, leaders have more readily engaged with parents over the importance of good attendance, and this has had a positive impact. The attendance of disadvantaged pupils is also improving and is now close to that of other pupils at the school.

Number of days lost through illness.	173 pupils have lost collectively 1042 days with sickness	Number of warning letters issued for lateness after register closes – 9.15am	0
Number of late marks before register closes (8.45 -9.15AM)	90 pupils collectively marked late before 9.15am 649 times	Number of warning letters issued for lateness before register closes 8.45 – 9.15AM	7
Number of late marks after registration closes (after 9.15am)	36 pupils collectively marked late after 9.15am 72 times	Number of Medical Evidence letters issued for continual sickness	1
Number of unauthorised days marked in the register because no valid reason had been given by parents	30 pupils collectively marked as unauthorised absent for 150 days	Number of warning letters issued for unexplained absence without a valid reason or response from parents	0
Number of Holidays booked with a holiday request form not being completed by parents	12 Children have been taken out of school for a holiday without permission	Number of warning letters issued for non-attendance	7
Number of holiday request forms processed this year	14 Forms involving 20 children	Number of Penalty Notices issued by Waterside Primary School this year	14
Number of sessions marked as “M” for medical appointments this year	68 Pupils collectively lost 166 sessions (83 days) due to medical appointments.	Number of days lost through holidays taken in term time	41 pupils collectively lost 128 days

NEW INFORMATION FROM HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CHANGE IN CODE OF CONDUCT RELATING TO PENALTY NOTICES

After Easter Hampshire County Council made an announcement regarding a change to the “Code of Conduct” when issuing Penalty Notices. The key difference which effects parents going forward; if a parent decides to take a second family holiday within a 12 month period NOT academic year, a referral will be made straight to the Attendance Legal Panel. The school will not issue a Penalty Notice as it is perceived that the 1st Penalty Notice issued for the 1st holiday did not have the effect of deterring the family from booking a 2nd holiday.

It is now at the discretion of the Head Teacher to refer any family who has further holiday or leave of absence to Hampshire County Council “Area Legal Panel”. All details including, why the issuing of another Penalty Notice would be ineffective is discussed with the ALP team in a meeting. They then make the decision at the meeting to instigate legal proceedings or not. This will result in parents being summoned to Court.

To put this into perspective, Waterside has attended 3 Area Legal Panels this year and one case is being referred back to Court.

Lateness

Going forward, lateness will be high on the schools radar as lateness is still a big problem at Waterside for some parents.

Hampshire County Council have given schools clear guidance when fining for lateness.

Schools can now issue a Penalty Notice if a child has been persistently late before the close of the register 9.15am (coded L), for up to 10 sessions (five days) unless the issuing of a Penalty Notice would conflict with other intervention strategies in place or other sanctions already being processed. The same applies for children who come into school after 9.15am and are (coded O) in the register.