



Shepton Mallet Community Infants' School & Nursery

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Headteacher: Mrs Honoria Thompson



"Where Children Come First."

20/09/2022

Attendance at School – a Reminder

Dear Parent / Carer,

During the period of the Covid -19 pandemic the Government relaxed the rules around compulsory school attendance. During the last school year, 2021 – 2022, we were also lenient.

However, the rules have now been tightened once more and we will again be applying for Penalty Notices for families who take their children out of school for holidays during term time, or who are persistently late for school. Term time leave requests will be reviewed and approved only in the case of exceptional circumstances at the Headteacher's discretion; all other absences will be unauthorised. Should parents choose to take their children on holiday when it has not been authorised by the School, a penalty notice will be raised on the 10th session of absence.

Regular and punctual attendance at school is a legal requirement under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. It is essential that parents maximise the educational opportunities available to their children and provide the best possible start in life. The link between attendance and attainment is firmly established. Those children who attend more achieve higher standards more regularly and are more likely to be ready for the next part of their educational journey.

If a pupil has unauthorised absence of 10 sessions (5 days) or more, in any 12 week period (where no acceptable reason has been given for the absence) or a child persistently arrives late for school after the close of registration, their parents or carers may receive a Penalty Notice fine of £60 per parent per child, which must be paid within 28 days. If payment is made after 28 days but within 42 days, the penalty is increased to £120.

Our attendance records are monitored by the Local Authority and we as a school are held to account if our attendance figures go below 96%. This is the figure that the Government set as a minimum expectation for each child. I am sure that through good communication and working together we can attain that percentage for all our children.

If you have any concerns about getting your child into school please do not hesitate to contact us. Our Parent and Family Support Adviser will be able to help you in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Honoria Thompson

Honoria Thompson
Headteacher



Web:
www.sheptonmalletinfants.co.uk

VAT Registered Number: 131254412

