

## Attendance Newsletter - Autumn 1

Our whole school attendance for 2023/2024 was 91.9%, which is an improvement on the previous year of 89.8%.

We will continue improving attendance across the federation, by working closely with families towards achieving our **school target of 97%**.

Mrs Richards will continue monitoring attendance and punctuality on a daily basis along with our Education Welfare Officer Miss Withers from Walsall Council. We are keen to ensure that all children attend school regularly, as you are aware, it is important for your child's friendships and academic progress. In addition, it is proven that good attendance is linked with academic success, throughout their educational learning journey.

You can help us achieve this target throughout the year by ensuring your child has regular attendance.

**Daily absences** – Please report **all** absences, planned medical appointments and lateness to the school office by 9.15.a.m. Medical evidence / proof of appointments are required for authorisation of absence. Failing to report an absence reason could result in a home visit from the Safeguarding team.

**Lateness** - A prompt start to the school day is vital for accurate records of attendance. School opens at 8.30am for all pupils. Gates close 8.50am. If your child arrives after this time, they will enter via the main office and will need to be signed in by a parent / carer, giving their reason of lateness and state their lunch preference. This will then be recorded as a late mark. Persistent lateness is also monitored and in some cases, warning letters are issued. Miss Withers (EWO) will also conduct a late gate each term where she will speak to parents individually. **A whole school punctuality update text will be sent to parent / carers weekly.**

**Unauthorised absences** - In an effort to improve school attendance within Walsall Schools, the Local Authority have advised that Fixed Penalty Notices will now be issued along with a First Warning Letter for any unauthorised absences of 4 days or longer in one period of absence. The First Warning Letter is the start of the process, which our Attendance Officer follows regarding unauthorised absences and could then be followed by a Final Warning Letter, Attendance Panel and Court.

**Term time leave** - All requests for holidays during term time, will be declined. Should you proceed then your child's absence will be recorded as unauthorised. This is in line with our school Attendance Policy, and government guidance. In addition, you will be subject to a penalty notice fine and will be referred to our Education Welfare Officer who, on behalf of Walsall Children's Services, will issue you the fixed penalty notice under the provision of the sub-section (1) of section 23 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

Please notify school of any term time leave requests **before taking the leave**. As your child attends this school and as part of our responsibility for safeguarding your child, we must be aware of their whereabouts, when they are not in school during term time. A notification of leave form is available from the school office.

### **Fixed Penalty Notice**

From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if not paid within 28 days**.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent/carer receives a second fine for the same child within any **three-year period**, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

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

Where a pupil meets the threshold for a penalty notice and they have changed schools (including primary to secondary) the current school must complete an Education Penalty Notice History Check.

Legal action under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, which could lead to fines up to £2,500, or even imprisonment.

In some cases, action may need to be taken under the Children Act 1989 to protect the welfare and development of a child.

## Recognition and Rewards

### Individual Attendance awards

Bronze, Silver, Gold badges will be awarded throughout the year for excellent attendance

In autumn term, children will receive bronze, spring term silver and summer term Gold

(Bronze and Silver can also be earned to children that then have above 97% in the spring and summer terms)

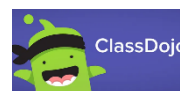


Pupils with attendance above 97% receive **3 golden tickets** for the end of term prize draw, thereby increasing their chances of winning

**All pupils with 100% for the school year will be rewarded with an individual prize**

### Classes

Each week, the class with the highest attendance will receive the attendance certificate to be displayed on their classroom door, hold the school attendance trophy and each pupil will receive a class Dojo.



The class with the highest attendance each half term will be awarded a certificate, trophy and **one golden ticket each**

Parents will be informed via the school website on the attendance page

**The class with the highest attendance at the end of the school year will receive a special Head teacher's reward - after discussion/agreement with the pupils.**

### 30 days of school challenge

If a pupil's attendance falls below 90% we set a 30 day challenge for them. To be completed daily with their class teacher

Parent / carers will receive notification of this to encourage improvement

If when complete their attendance has improved, they will receive a certificate and prize. Plus golden tickets if attendance has improved above 90%

### Weekly

Each week all classes are visited by a member of SLT to award a sticker to each pupil that has 100% attendance for that week

This promotes team work within the class. Please recognise your child's reward at home



### Golden Tickets

All pupils at the end of each term can earn golden tickets for attendance. Pupils with attendance between **90% - 95%** will receive **one golden ticket**. Attendance above **95%** will receive **two golden tickets**, and attendance above **97%** will receive **three golden tickets**

All winning tickets will be placed into a prize draw at the end of each term to win one of the following prizes:



£10 family voucher X1. £25 family voucher X1  
£50 family voucher X1

