



Aughton Town Green Primary School

Only my best is good enough for me"

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Dear Parents,

Improving our children's Attendance and Punctuality

I recently met with the School's Attendance Support Officer to examine percentages across our school. We found that overall our children's attendance and punctuality is good, with just a minority of children causing us a concern.

Therefore, I write to remind all of our parents of the importance of good attendance and punctuality on children's educational outcomes and encourage all parents to ensure that their child is in school every day and on time.

Please see below as reminder of both school policy and the importance of good attendance and punctuality children's school life.

Punctuality:

I would like to remind parents that the school gates open at 8.45am each morning, and close at 9.00am. 9.00am is the start of the School day, so children entering through the School Office after 9.00am will be marked as late. Parents will also be aware that we have a Before School Club facility that they can use if it is needed.

Clearly, it is essential for a child's educational, social and personal well-being to be on time every morning. A child who is late for School can not only miss vital information at the start of a lesson, but will often become embarrassed or upset because of the lateness. Again, this academic year, all Maths lessons start straight after the 9.00am registration at 9.05am, so it is more important than ever that children are in school on time so not to miss the teachers input.

Attendance

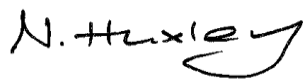
Similarly, it is vital that children have good attendance so that they can flourish in School and reach their potential. The 'School Attendance and Support Team' (SAST) have advised me that 95% + attendance through an academic year is good attendance. I recently reviewed attendance for the year so far with our SAST Advisor and found that numerous children's attendance to be below 90% so far this year.

As you can imagine, at the moment these figures can be for many different reasons and will not yet be a true reflection of overall attendance so early in the academic year. However, holidays in term time were seen as one of the most significant factors to very poor attendance! Again, I want to remind parents that term time leave will only be authorised under reasonable exceptional circumstances; weddings, funerals, sporting events, parent's graduations and the like, not for a family holiday.

With this in mind, I have agreed to review individual children's attendance and punctuality figures with our SAST Advisor at the half way point in the School year; the February half term. At this point, I will write directly to parents whose children's attendance and punctuality remains worryingly low to encourage improvements and avoid any possible Lancashire SAST involvement.

If you know that your child often enters School through the Office after 9.00am regularly or has poor attendance so far this year, please make every effort to make an improvement. There is no doubt that good attendance and punctuality supports children's progress and wellbeing in School.

Yours sincerely



Nick Huxley
Headteacher

