

Dear Parents and Carers

I am asking for your support in improving whole school attendance. During the COVID pandemic it was necessary for pupils and families to isolate if they or a close contact tested positive. That is not now the case, and it is essential that we build back up on our previous positive attendance rates.

The impact upon children's education through lost learning is huge. At a time when so much education has been disrupted it is vital that we make every school minute count. I urge you to ensure that your child is in school and on time every day to prevent anyone falling behind with their learning.

Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of 90% or below is **persistent absence** which will be closely monitored by school staff. Failing to improve on this 90% can lead to prosecution, which school want to help families avoid.

John Willmott School have a whole school attendance target which is 96%. There are things you can do to improve your child's attendance and avoid falling into the persistent absence category:

- If your child is unwell and you are unsure whether to send them to school, contact the office to seek advice on **0121 378 6564**.
- **Avoid taking any holidays during term times.**
- Keep up to date with what % attendance your child has so that you know if they are at risk of poor attendance or persistent absence (the attendance office can provide any information for you).
- Talk to your child about the importance of them being in school and let them know how important **you** feel it is.

The table below provides an example of the impact of lost learning through pupil absence:

Attendance % over a school year	Equal to number of days absent	Converted to approximate weeks of absence	Approximate number of lessons missed	School Concern Level
95%	9.5	2	47.5	Pupil can catch up and still succeed
90%	19	4	95	Poor attendance - we are concerned
80%	38	8	190	Very poor attendance – we are very concerned
70%	57	12	285	Serious concerns

Therefore, a child who has an absence percentage of 90% has missed 19 days of school in 1 academic year and has missed 95 lessons.

Thank you for your support, I hope we can make improvements to attendance together.

Kind regards

Mrs N Gould
Acting Headteacher