

# Ysgol Alexandra's

## Attendance Newsletter



As we approach the end of school year, we would like to share with you the progress we have made with our Whole School attendance. This is the second year that our school has not been closed at some point due to Covid, and we are pleased to announce that our overall school attendance for 2022-2023 is (drum roll please...) **90.2%**!

We would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to all our parents and carers who have helped us achieve this.

As you are aware, we have high expectations for all our pupils, and our children need to attend school regularly, and on time, for them to meet these expectations.

### Every Day in School Counts!

From September, certificates will be issued at the end of each term to celebrate those pupils achieving 'Good' attendance. Good attendance means that pupils are in school for 97% of the time. There will also be special treats throughout the year for those children achieving 97% attendance or more. With this in mind, and with your continued support, we aim for every pupil to be in the 'Good' category next year 😊.



For those pupils falling into the 'Amber' or 'Red' category as described below, a letter explaining our concerns will be issued to parents/carers. At this point it is important to note that we are always here to help. If, for any reason, you are finding it difficult to get your child to school regularly and on time, please, please speak to us. Your class teacher, Miss L Evans and Mrs S Jones are all available to offer help and support. The sooner you talk to us, the sooner we can help.

**Green Attendance 97% – 100%. Your child has 'Good' attendance and no action is required**

**Amber Attendance 93% - 96%. Pupils will be monitored closely by school and parents and carers informed by letter**

**Red Attendance below 92%. Pupils may be referred to the Attendance Officer and Education Social Worker in the Local Authority and legal action may be considered. Legal action can be in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice or Prosecution.**

Although Year 11 may seem too far away to worry about now, it is worth knowing that children who have less than 85% school attendance are unlikely to gain 5 Grade A-C GCSEs which will have a detrimental impact on their career and future life choices.

### **'To Send or not to Send?' that is the question...**

Often a child will wake up in the morning saying that they feel poorly. We do encourage children to come to school even if they feel a 'little unwell' or a 'little under the weather,' for example, with a runny nose, headache, tummy-ache. We will always contact you if your child is unwell, which is why it is vitally important that we have your correct contact details.



Absences must be reported to school each day unless your child has a long-term illness which has already been discussed with school. If you leave a message on the answerphone, please provide a full reason for their absence as 'unwell' is not acceptable and may lead to a further telephone call to ask for clarification.

### **Holidays**

We do fully appreciate how expensive it is to take children on holiday and how it is considerably cheaper to take them during term time. However, holidays will only be authorised in exceptional circumstance and are at the discretion of the head teacher, Mrs Roberts. Any unauthorised holidays are included in a pupil's attendance figures, and poor levels of attendance can result in the Local Authority considering taking legal action.

### **On Time, all the Time**



The school gates for pupils are open from 8.40am for a prompt 8.50am start. Being just 5 minutes late a day adds up to 3 days of lost learning per year. 10 minutes late adds up to 6 days of lost learning per year and so on. If your child is over 25 minutes late it is classed as an 'unauthorised absence' which will affect your child's overall percentage attendance to school and can lead to you being fined.

When children are late, they find it harder to settle into their lessons and they often miss key messages which can affect their learning for the rest of the day. We also know that when a child arrives late, not only do they feel embarrassed, but they disrupt the learning for the rest of the class.

### **And finally**

Achieving good school attendance requires school, parents/carers, and the local authority to work together. We want your child to thrive here with us and regular attendance to school is where this starts. Forming good attendance habits in the Foundation Phase, is vital for the transition to KS2, onwards to High School and then beyond to college, university, an apprenticeship, or a job. We understand that sometimes there are situations outside of your control that impact on your child getting to school. If this happens, please talk to us and we will do our best to support you.



### **Have a lovely summer!**