

Ysgol Alexandra's

Attendance Newsletter – December 2023



Introduction

We've had a very busy start to this academic year, what with Estyn visiting (and a glowing report of our school recently published), and the last half term being full of Christmas cheer, so we would just like to take a few minutes of your time to reflect on our school's attendance.

Texting

We are always looking for ways we can improve our school attendance. We follow the Local Authorities' procedures relating to those pupils who are persistently absent, and we are keen to find new ways to ensure our children are in school regularly and on time.

We have recently introduced a text system which is used by the school's attendance team to follow up on children who are not in school. This is proving helpful for both staff and parents. Please just be aware that this is being used for attendance reasons only at the moment, and not for general enquiries. Please also bear in mind that we do not reply to individual texts unless further information relating to the absence is needed.

Survey

Thank you to all those parents who completed the survey 'Improving School Attendance and Involvement in School' In summary, the results showed us that:



85% thought that they always get support from school with attendance when they need it with 12% stated they they sometimes get support.

89% stated they are informed of their child's attendance throughout the year.

88% felt they were made to feel welcome in school all of the time and 12% most of the time.

84% felt they may like to be involved more in school

The results will form part of our Attendance Plan and help us build upon what we already do in school.

Scores on the doors...

Our current school attendance is 92.2% which we are really pleased with and we strongly believe we can do better and meet our target of 97% next term.

Attendance certificates will be issued before the end of term to those achieving perfect and good attendance. Perfect attendance is for those pupils achieving 100% attendance and good attendance means that pupils are in school for 97% of the



time. There have been weekly attendance treats throughout the term, whereby the class achieving the highest attendance have had extra playtime.

For those pupils falling into the 'Amber' or 'Red' category as described below, a letter highlighting this will be sent home. We do understand that children get poorly and a few days off this early in the year, does have a huge impact on their overall percentage. As the year progresses, and they continue to be in school regularly, then their percentage will improve. These letters will be sent home every term, so you will be able to see for yourselves the improvements made.

Please 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, then please come and speak to us. Your child's class teacher, Miss L Evans, Mrs Pate and Mrs S Jones are all available to offer help and support. Remember, 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 will be monitored closely by school and parents and carers informed by letter. Pupils may be referred to the Education Social Worker in the Local Authority and legal action may be considered should the situation not improve.

On Time, all the Time



Just a reminder, we return to school on **Tuesday 9th January 2024!** The school gates for pupils are open from 8.40am for a prompt 8.50am start. We've mentioned this before, but being just 5 minutes late a day adds up to around 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 30 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.

We also know that 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. They can also feel embarrassed, as they disrupt the learning for the rest of the class.

And finally...

'We Can Do...' is our school's moto, and an attitude of mind we want all our children to have. We know that the more our children are in school then the greater their chances are of success both in school and later on in their lives. We also know that with your continued help and support, we can ensure that all of our pupils access the amazing opportunities that school offers both with learning and with friendships.

