



# ATTENDANCE SPECIAL

## Spring 2025

**Welcome** to our attendance newsletter; the aim is to promote the importance of attendance across the school community. It is really important that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance at school so that they can enjoy their learning and socialising with their peers.

Attendance is a crucial part of your child's education, and we appreciate your support in ensuring that your child attends school regularly and on time.

You may have heard in the press that there is currently an attendance crisis in the UK. Overall absence in schools in England has risen more than 50% since 2019, while persistent absence – when pupils miss 10% or more of sessions – has more than doubled, prompting widespread concern and a range of interventions by government ministers.

We are working closely with Matt Jackson, our appointed Attendance Improvement Officer (AIO) at Torbay Council. He plays a

crucial role in promoting regular school attendance and reducing absenteeism. His primary goal is to support students, families, and schools in ensuring that children attend school regularly and receive the best possible education. In extreme cases he also supports legal proceedings when there are persistent unauthorised absences.

The **good news** is that our school attendance is much better this year than it was at this time last year. We would still like to see further improvement however as we know the impact that low attendance has on academic outcomes for children.

Our School  
Attendance Target  
is 96%

Our whole school attendance currently stands at **95.3%** – we are very close to our target!



I have attached a table of pupil numbers in each category for each year group.

	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
	94.6 %	94.7 %	95%	96.3 %	95.1 %	95.8 %	96.1 %
Persistently Absent	4	4	4	2	3	4	1
Below average	5	6	9	2	2	4	7
Excellent	11	15	8	17	11	13	16
100%	2	4	7	6	4	4	4

You will see that the vast majority of our pupils have excellent or above attendance which is very pleasing.

### Absence affects children in many ways...

1. They miss out on learning that may not be covered again.
2. As all of our learning is sequential, children have the extra burden of 'catching up' when they return to school.
3. They miss out on fun and friendship with their friends.
4. Friendships can dwindle as pupils will move onto new friendships if their friends are off school a lot.
5. They begin suffering from anxiety due to lack of routine.
6. Their behaviour at school can deteriorate.

### Good attendance is important because ...

statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school and studies show that children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically. With the focus and development on the curriculum that has taken place at school then children who are absent will develop gaps in their sequential knowledge. For our younger children, both attendance and punctuality are doubly important as they move straight into their phonics groups after the register has been taken.

### 90% attendance doesn't sound too bad but...

in actual fact by the end of the year this equates to four whole weeks of missed learning!



## When it is OK for your child to be off...

- On the advice of a medical practitioner
- To seek urgent medical advice
- If they have a raised temperature and fever
- If they have been sick or had diarrhoea in the last 48 hours
- If they have an illness that is contagious such as Impetigo, Chicken Pox, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Meningitis, Measles or Hand, Foot and Mouth disease

## When you should send your child to school...

- If your child is in mild pain e.g. headache, ear ache, or sore throat
- If your child has a cough or cold
- If your child is tired or has had a bad night
- If your child has a mild condition such as head lice, conjunctivitis
- If your child has a condition such as slapped cheek syndrome which is no longer infectious once the symptoms or rash has appeared
- If your child has an injury such as a sprain or fracture (unless they are in considerable pain)

**We will always...** make arrangements in school to support children that are feeling under the weather. For example they can stay inside at break times or be given a place to have a nap. If a child's condition gets worse or we think a child is too ill to be at school we will contact you. We are also willing to administer Calpol during the school day if needed. This should be handed to the office in the morning in a clearly labelled bottle.

## Working together...

We will continue to work with you to keep you updated on your child's attendance by

- texting you to let you when things are going well
- sending out letters each half term to inform you of your child's attendance should it go below 95%
- inviting you in to find ways to work together to support your child's attendance

## The School Day

A reminder that the school day starts at 8.35am and the registers close at 8.45am. The school gates are open at 8.30am to allow the children to get in with plenty of time to be settled. If your child arrives after 9.00am, once the registers have closed, your child is marked as absent for the session and this will affect their overall attendance.