

Attendance Newsletter



Dear Parents,

At Middleton In Teesdale Primary School we are continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality and we expect children's attendance to be at least **96%** - this is in line with government and County Durham expectations.

Since 2018 we have offered incentives to children for great termly and yearly attendance. **THANK YOU SO MUCH** to those families who have been working hard to ensure their child's punctuality and attendance is high. We know how tricky this can be. **THANK YOU** for getting these important habits established early on in your child's life as it will make a difference in their futures, especially when catching the bus to secondary school. This means children can begin learning on time and late comers do not affect other children's learning.

There is a link between attendance and achievement and therefore it is very important that your child attends school every day unless your child is unwell or there are exceptional circumstances.



Family holidays and term time leave



We ask that holidays be taken during the **175** days we are not at school/holiday times.

Parents/Carers should complete the Leave of absence during term time form (*available from the office and on the school website*) before any absences are taken to help support our safeguarding duty and to ensure your child's school place is protected.

Any holiday leave is coded as unauthorised, in line with County Durham's policy. This means you may incur a penalty notice (warning or fine) for absences during term time.

Punctuality Matters too!

Missed minutes = missed learning = missed opportunities!

We all run late sometimes. For your child, arriving late to school *occasionally* will not cause major disruption. Inevitably, children will feel sick or tired some mornings, or other situations will prevent them from being on time. But *CHRONIC* lateness eventually takes its toll on a child's overall educational experience. As a school, we are aware lateness can severely affect achievement. We monitor punctuality closely and have strategies in place to address lateness. Awareness of the impact of lateness is raised with pupils, staff and parents regularly. Our doors open at 8.45am and close at 8.55am. Registration begins at 8.55am and all pupils are expected to be in their class room at this time. Pupils arriving after this time will be marked as present but arriving late (L). Pupils arriving after the register has been completed will receive a unauthorised late mark (U).

Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning:

Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.

Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.

Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year.

19 days lost a year through being late = 90% attendance = Persistent Absence.

If Your Child Is Absent, You Must:

- Contact school on the first morning of absence by 9.15am.
- Send a note and/or medical evidence into school when your child returns with the reason for absence.
- Keep school informed on a regular basis if your child is absent for more than 2 days.

Thank you for your help and support with improving your child's attendance. If you require any support with getting your child to school please contact Rachel Stevens on
07825905225

