

The Wolgarston Partnership of Schools

21 May 2010

Dear Parent / Carer

We are keen to ensure that across our family of schools we have a strong and continuously improving learning culture. One of the keys to successful learning is a high level of attendance, right from the start of First School through to the end of High School. Children are expected to maintain an attendance level of 95% and above. There is a strong correlation between high levels of attendance and good examination results because children with lower levels of attendance find it more difficult to keep up with school work.

Employers will want to be sure that the people they are hiring are reliable. Children with high levels of attendance are more likely to get jobs. 100% attendance is an important and achievable goal for most children.

If a student has a 95% attendance rate then they will have missed 2 weeks of learning. A student with 85% attendance will have missed half a term. Parents are committing an offence if they fail to ensure their child's regular attendance at school, and the local authority can now issue Penalty Notices if a parent fails to make sure that their child receives the education they deserve.

The only legitimate reasons for absence are:

- Religious observance;
- Illness of child;
- The death of a close family member;
- and urgent medical or dental appointment – *not a routine appointment*.

The most important thing you can do, as a parent, is make sure your child goes to school regularly, arrives on time, and attends all lessons; arrival after registration is recorded as an absence. Start these good habits at an early age and you will make things easier in the long run. Please:

- Avoid taking holidays during term time;
- Do not arrange shopping trips during school hours;
- Tell the school straight away if your child is off school due to illness;
- Keep birthday treats to the weekend.

High attendance is the first step to getting a good education, and a good education gives your child the best possible start in life. Let's work together to achieve very high levels of attendance in all our schools.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Lane
Headteacher St
Leonard's CE
First School,
DUNSTON

Mrs J Grundy
Headteacher
St Michael's CE (A)
First School,
PENKRIDGE

Mrs I Kirby
Headteacher
St Paul's CE
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Mrs A Lunt
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St Mary and St Chad
CE First School,
BREWOOD

Mr D Swift
Headteacher
Brewood CE
Middle School,
BREWOOD

Mrs H Lane
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St John's CE
First School,
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Mr P Singer
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Penkridge Middle
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Mr P Tapp
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