

## ★ ATTENDANCE MATTERS – EVERY DAY COUNTS

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin a new school year, we would like to remind everyone just how important **regular attendance** is. Being in school every day gives children the best opportunity to **learn, make progress, build friendships and feel part of our school community**.

### A STRONG START MATTERS

Research from **FFT Education Datalab** found that pupils who missed school at the beginning of the academic year were **2.7 times more likely to become persistently absent** later in the year.

For primary-aged children:

#### Reception

41% of pupils who were absent at the start of the year went on to become persistently absent, compared with 20% who attended.

#### Years

1–6

36% of pupils who were absent at the start became persistently absent, compared with just 13% who attended.

Pupils absent at the start of the year were also **5–6 times more likely to miss at least 20% of the school year**.

**Persistent absence means missing 10% or more of available school sessions.**



### ATTENDANCE DOESN'T RESET IN SEPTEMBER

It is important to remember that attendance procedures do not simply start again each September. The national threshold considers **10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school-week period**, and these weeks can span **different terms and school years**.



### TERM-TIME HOLIDAYS

We ask families to arrange holidays during the school holidays. Term-time leave will only be authorised in **exceptional circumstances**.

Where the national threshold is met and a penalty notice is issued:

**1st offence:** £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, increasing to £160 if paid within 28 days.

**2nd offence within 3 years:** £160 per parent, per child.

**3rd offence within 3 years:** A further penalty notice cannot be issued and **other legal action, including prosecution, may be considered**.

## ★ LET'S CELEBRATE GREAT ATTENDANCE!

We want our approach to attendance to be positive as well as supportive. This term, we will be talking to our **School Council** about how pupils would like us to **recognise and celebrate good and improving attendance** across school.

If there are barriers affecting your child's attendance, please speak to us. **Working together early can make a real difference.**

**Every day in school is a day to learn, grow and achieve.**

Thank you for your continued support.

**Sandringham Primary School**