



Frimley Church of England Junior School



Thursday 18th January 2024

Dear Parents,

Our attendance figures are usually above national average here at Frimley, however we have noticed our numbers of children who are persistently absent (under 90%) are creeping up and wanted to highlight to you the importance of good school attendance. At Frimley, missing one day a week means that your child will miss at least 50 hours of maths and 50 hours of English teaching per school year at Frimley. Lessons are planned to build on previous learning so that children's learning can be maximised. By missing part of the learning journey, your child will have missed some input and therefore find the following lessons more tricky. We will, of course, support all children to fill these gaps, however regular absences will inevitably leave significant gaps in learning. One day absent a week will also result in nearly 50 hours lost of time for your child to socialise with their peers and develop successful relationships with peers and adults.

We have also noticed the number of children arriving after 8.40am is increasing. These minutes are valuable in settling into the school day and this first session of the day includes important learning opportunities. If children miss this first 5 -10 minutes of the school day they will miss important follow-up work from the day before or crucial pre-learning to the days work. Essential spelling, grammar and number skills are also taught at this time. Being late 5 minutes each day equates to missing 3 full days over an academic year!

A few reminders (in line with our attendance policy):

- Please remember to make medical appointments outside of school hours wherever possible.
- Please remember requests for leave of absence during term time will not be authorised. Family holidays are not an exceptional circumstance.
- If your child is suffering a common cough or cold, they should still attend school. If you are in doubt, please send them to school and we will of course keep an eye on them throughout the day and contact you if we need to. Coughs and colds often sound and appear worse first thing in the morning.
- Please check NHS guidelines or the following link if you are unsure whether your child should attend.... [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) There are an increasing number of illnesses for which the guidelines have recently changed, including conjunctivitis and whooping cough.

If your child really is not well enough to attend school, please also help our wonderful office team, by reporting their absence promptly each day, giving as much detail as possible about the illness. This helps us know that all children are safe, monitor attendance patterns and helps us protect any children or staff who are vulnerable due to ongoing medical conditions.

Kind regards,

Sally Williams

Pastoral Deputy Headteacher & Attendance Leader

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Learning Together We Grow

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