



ATTENDANCE MATTERS (5)

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

October 2024

We at Elmbridge Primary school want to make sure that all children reach their potential and we know that you will want us to work together to make that happen. **Regular attendance plays a vital role to ensuring your child makes the most of their education, both academically and socially.**

Attendance during Term 1

Our attendance overall in term 1 has been 96.8% - this is a great start to the academic year, which will hopefully continue! However, we know that only missing a small number of days over the course of a school term can cause children to fall behind in their academic and social learning. Please help by booking medical appointments outside of school hours if possible and remember to contact the school everyday your child will be absent.

Persistent absence

Children are regarded persistently absent from school when they miss 10% or more of their schooling over an academic year, through illness, anxiety, holidays, or any other type of absence. 10% means that the child is missing on average 1 day every fortnight.

Why is persistent absence such a big concern?

All the statistics show that children who are persistently absent do less well at school, both academically and socially. Children persistently absent from primary school are more likely to be persistently absent from secondary school, having a huge negative impact on their GCSE results. Not only this, but the Centre for Social Justice have carried out research that shows that persistently absent pupils are three times more likely to commit an offence by age 17, than other pupils who attend school regularly [School absence risks tidal wave of youth crime, CSJ analysis reveals - The Centre for Social Justice](#)

We of course understand that life throws challenges our way, but we do not want ANY of our pupils here at Elmbridge Primary School to be persistently absent. We will work with you to remove any barriers and support families as much as we can to ensure children attend school regularly.

Who can support me?

- Our school attendance champion is Mrs Victoria Toppin (vtoppin@elmbridgeprimary.co.uk)
- You can speak to your child's teacher about attendance at any time.
- You can speak to any of the school's pastoral team.
- You can speak to Amanda Holliday, our DSL (Safeguarding lead).
- You can speak to Mr Tharia or Mr Riddle
- You can speak to anyone at school who will be pleased to advise and help you ensure your child attends school regularly.

Winter Ailments

We would ask all our parents and carers to support their child's regular attendance at school, particularly as we approach winter. See the guide below if you are in doubt as to whether to send your child to school, as recommended by the NHS [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

High temperature	Keep off school until it goes away.
Coughs/colds	Send to school if symptoms are mild; keep off school if they have a temperature until it goes.
Chickenpox	Return to school when spots have crusted over.
Cold sores	Send to school, but try not to share bottles etc
Conjunctivitis	Send to school, unless feeling unwell.
Covid-19*	Send to school if symptoms are mild; keep off school if they have a temperature until it goes. If tested positive, stay at home for 3 days - inform school office.
Ear infection	Keep off school until they feel better and temperature has gone.
Impetigo	Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment.
Scarlet Fever	Return to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.
Slapped cheek	Send to school; inform school office.
Sore throat	Send to school if symptoms are mild; keep off school if they have a temperature until it goes.
Vomiting and diarrhoea	Keep off school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

*Note: there is no school or government requirement to test for Covid-19.

GOOD NEWS! It's never too late to improve attendance

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