



ATTENDANCE MATTERS (7) February 2025

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

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

Attendance during Term 1, 2 and 3

Our attendance overall in term 1, 2 and 3 has been 96% - Thank you to everyone who has tried hard to maximise their attendance this year! This is a fantastic effort and everyone at school appreciates the support from parents and carers.

We do know that there have been several bugs and illness going around and of course children may need time to recover - it is important, however, that these days don't add up with other absences over the academic year. Parents and carers can help by

- **Not booking holidays in term time** - we understand that prices are cheaper but this is because demand is far less, as the vast majority of families don't take holidays in term time.
- Where you can, scheduling routine appointments out of school hours - we know this can be difficult, but making appointments well in advance can help.
- Not allowing children a day off on their birthday.

Being Punctual

It's great to see the vast majority of pupils arriving at school on time - A reminder that children should be on the school playgrounds at 8:45 to be ready for the start of the day at 8:50 - this is the time children should be in their classrooms ready to learn.

Reporting absences

We would like to encourage parents/carers to report absences via Edulink - this is a far more efficient way of doing so, as the office staff cannot sometimes make out answer phone messages. We would also please ask you to send a message for **everyday** of a pupil absence, to keep school informed. Parents and carers can, of course, ring if they would like to speak to a member of staff about an absence.

Education Secretary comments on the importance of school attendance

In an address to the Centre for Social Justice, Bridget Phillipson has stressed the importance of regular attendance at school. She said:

"It's not just about your (parent/carer) responsibility to your own child, but about the responsibility you have to the whole school community and wider society. The decisions you take as an individual parent or carer not to send your children to school, impacts the education of all children in the class."

As a school, we would agree with this sentiment; every teacher has a duty to help pupils catch up if they are absent, but we know gaps due to missed learning cause difficulties later, both academically and socially.

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 (Head) or Mr Riddle (Assistant Head)
- You can speak to anyone at school who will be pleased to advise and help you ensure your child attends school regularly.

Term 4 2025

Term 4 starts on Tuesday 25th February for pupils.

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

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