

At Elmbridge Primary School, we want to make sure that all children reach their potential and we know that you will work with us 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

This term our attendance is 96.9%. This is a good start to the year but we would love to see this increase as the year progresses. We know that 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. Remember to contact the school every day your child is absent - this can be done using the Edulink app.

## 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. This equates to 19 school days missed over the course of the year. This means that the child is missing on average 1 day (4 lessons) every fortnight.

### Why is persistent absence such a big concern?

Research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well.

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Data (from 2019) shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage. Evidence also shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A-Level 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.

We understand that life can throw 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](mailto: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 Mrs Holliday, 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 attached [guide](#) if you are in doubt as to whether to send your child to school, as recommended by the NHS.