



Middlewich Primary School



Attendance Newsletter Spring Term 2024

Going to school - Why it's so important!

Every child has a right to education and to have the best possible life chances. By attending school daily and on time they learn the importance of commitment and being punctual.

Many people think that the odd day off here and there does not matter, but even these odd days can have an impact on a child's learning. Learning about any topic does not happen all in one day, therefore when a child returns to school the class may be continuing their learning from the day before which will put the absent child at an immediate disadvantage.

At the time of school assessment, it will be hard for children to achieve their best results if there are gaps in their learning.

Not being at school regularly also has a negative effect on the social aspects of school. It is hard for children to build and maintain good friendships if they are not in school regularly.

Attendance Matters



What does good school attendance look like?

Good school attendance is coming to school every day and on time. We understand that from time to time, children have illnesses and are too unwell for school. Attendance of 97%+ is what we consider to be good attendance.

What happens if attendance falls below 97%?

We take school absence very seriously. We identify and monitor children whose attendance drops below 97% and will offer support to help improve this.

Any child whose attendance drops below 90%, will be discussed with Kelly Gooch, the Education Family Support worker from the Attendance and Children Out of School Service. Mrs Gooch will then arrange face to face meetings or home visits to discuss any barriers, concerns, or issues in getting your child into school.

It is important that parents/carers and school to work together to reduce absence and prevent legal action being taken as a result of persistent absence.

Is my child well enough to attend school?

We understand that children do become unwell. However, not all illnesses require time off from school. Please see the information at the end of this newsletter taken from the NHS website.

If your child seems to be a bit 'under the weather' and you are unsure as to whether they should come to school, we recommend that you do send them in. If needed, we will contact you. We almost always find children perk up and do manage to complete the day.

Expectations - providing reasons for absence

Please remember when phoning or emailing when your child who is off school, **we require an actual reason for the absence**. For example, to report as 'unwell' is not sufficient detail. Please remember to provide your child's full name and class as well.

Please make sure you have contacted the school by 9.00am if your child is going to be absent. If we do not hear from you by 9.30am, we will ring or text to ask why your child is not in school.

Medical appointments

We request that, where possible, routine medical and dentist appointments are arranged outside of school hours as these appointments will affect your child's percentage attendance. We do understand that some appointments, such as hospital consultations, are not always possible to arrange outside of school hours. However, if your appointment time allows your child to come to school for registration and then leave, this will have a positive impact on their attendance figure. Similarly, if they are able to be back in school for afternoon registration - 12.45pm - Key stage 2, 1.15pm - Key stage 1 and Reception this will also have a positive impact.

Holidays and absence during term time

Absence will not be authorised during term time except in exceptional circumstances. It is very important that all parents and carers understand that children with unauthorised absences, including holidays, and unexplained absences are at risk of receiving a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) from Cheshire East Council. A FPN is issued per parent, per child.

A Leave of Absence form must be completed if you expect your child to be absent from school. These can be obtained from outside the school office or you can email the office and an electronic form will be emailed to you.

If you do not complete a form and we have reason to believe your child is absent due to a reason which would not be authorised (a family holiday, for example) the school is able to issue an unauthorised absence. This may result in a FPN being issued.

Punctuality Matters!

Arriving on time for school is important as late arrivals are disruptive for the class and can be embarrassing for the child who is late. Children can also miss important information during registration including the plan for the day. School starts at 8.50am with the classroom doors being open at 8.40am. Any children arriving at school after 8.50am will be marked as "late" (L) and after 9.10am will be marked as "late after registration closes." This will then be recorded as an unauthorised absence. This may result in an FPN being issued.

We understand that school mornings can be hectic, but ... Did you know?

Being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing two weeks of school!



If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's attendance, please contact Mrs Bertoni.

Is my child too ill for school?

Taken from the NHS website

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

Other illnesses

Follow this advice for other illnesses:

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [common cold](#). But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

High temperature

If your child has a [high temperature](#), keep them off school until it goes away.

Chickenpox

If your child has [chickenpox](#), keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over.

This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Cold sores

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a [cold sore](#).

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have [conjunctivitis](#).

Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

COVID-19

If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school.

Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have [symptoms of COVID-19](#) and they either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities

What to do if your child has tested positive

Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.

Ear infection

If your child has an [ear infection](#) and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child has [hand, foot and mouth disease](#) but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You can treat [head lice and nits](#) without seeing a GP.

Impetigo

If your child has [impetigo](#), they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

If your child has [ringworm](#), see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

If your child has [scarlet fever](#), they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [slapped cheek syndrome](#) because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. But let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a [sore throat](#). But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of [tonsillitis](#).

Threadworms

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [threadworms](#). Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.