

Nelson St Philip's C of E Primary School

We love to learn. We learn to love. With Christ as our Guide, we love and learn together.



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29th March 2023

Dear Parents

I am writing to you regarding the important issue of School Attendance and Punctuality.

There are some key issues that we need to improve upon and I feel it important to share these with you:

Absences

There are still many absences, with the relevant families not letting us know why their child is absent. Please let us know by phone, email or in person, by 9.00am if your child is to be absent.

Extended Leave

By law, maintained schools cannot authorise any leave in term time other than in exceptional circumstances. Any extended leave of a child of compulsory school age will be classed as an unauthorised absence and will attract legal sanctions such as a penalty notice.

Reasons why you should not take your child out of school in term time:

- For every week of school a child misses, they lose 25 hours of education which can never be regained.
- The education of your child will be disrupted causing them to fall behind and struggling to catch up.
- Evidence shows that even small amounts of absence from school can affect your child's progress and attainment.
- Extended leave can cause problems of social reintegration when your child returns to school, affecting their self-confidence and their relationships with other children and teachers.

Any financial savings should be weighed up against the negative impact on your child's education.

Punctuality

We have an increasing number of pupils arriving late to school. If your child misses the start of the day, they can miss valuable learning and do not spend time with their class teacher getting important news and information for the day. Pupils arriving late also disrupt lessons, which can be embarrassing for them. Being 10 minutes late every day throughout the academic year is the same as missing two weeks of school.

The school gates open at 8.45am and the school day starts at 8.55am. Pupils are expected to be seated in class by 8.55am and ready to commence their learning.

From the start of the Summer Term, if your child has not arrived in school and ordered a school lunch before 9.30am, parents will need to bring in a packed lunch for their child(ren). Pupils arriving late and placing late lunch orders are having a disruptive effect on the school office and kitchen.

End of the school day

We also have an increasing number of pupils who are not collected on time at the end of the school day. **KS1 pupils should be collected at 3.25pm and KS2 pupils at 3.30pm.** Members of staff attend staff meetings, courses or undertake after school clubs at the end of the school day. Pupils remaining in school after 3.30pm are causing interruptions to these events.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Miss R Moulden
Headteacher