



St. John's C of E (Aided) Primary School

Jubilee Road, Shildon, County Durham, DL4 2EQ

Telephone: 01388 773476

Email: shildonstjohns@durhamlearning.net

www.st-johnscofe.durham.sch.uk

Follow us on Twitter: @StJohnsShildon

Find us on Facebook

Head teacher: Mr A. Farnell

Attendance: Being in School is Important for your Child!

Dear Parent/Carer,

At St. John's Primary School, we are committed to providing pupils with the best educational opportunities available. To enable pupils to benefit from these opportunities it is essential that you ensure their regular attendance.

The impact on children's education through poor attendance, resulting in lost learning, is huge! Our children have already had their education disrupted due to the pandemic and every minute in school counts! To prevent anyone falling behind with their learning, we need to continue to work together to make sure that your child is in school and on time every day.

Attendance Information

- **Above 97% attendance:** *Less than 6 days absence in one year*
This is excellent attendance.
- **95% attendance:** *10 days (2 weeks) absence in one school year*
This is good attendance but could be improved.
- **90% attendance:** *19 days (almost 4 weeks) absence in one school year*
Gaining less than 90% attendance will make your child a persistent absentee and will have serious consequences on their learning.

What School will do to Improve Attendance

- Our aim is to have a whole school attendance rate of 97%. We will be monitoring attendance data closely to identify any patterns or persistent absence (less than 90% attendance).
- We will be informing parents, via text message and phone calls, about slipping or low attendance. We will then work with those identified families, to understand the issues being faced. School will work together to help improve attendance.
- We promote rewards for 100% attendance within school and we celebrate with vouchers and certificates for the children.

If the interventions we have tried are not being successful, and all other approaches have been exhausted, school may be forced to use prosecutions to establish good attendance.





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What Parents/Carers can do to Improve their Child's Attendance

As a parent or carer, there are things you can do to improve your child's attendance and avoid falling into the persistent absence category:

- Promote, encourage and discuss how important regular attendance is with your child.
- If your child is too ill to attend school, please call the school office by 9:00am.
- If you are unsure whether your child needs to stay off school, please call for advice. We follow guidance from NHS England and www.gov.uk and follow their clear guidelines.
- Please avoid taking holidays during term time as these will be marked as unauthorised and may result in a fine.
- Keep up to date with your child's attendance.
- Speak to school staff with any concerns as soon as possible.

Punctuality

Being on time for school is also very important. We open the school gates at 8:40am and would like to encourage as many children to attend at this time, to enable us to start the day promptly. **All pupils are to be in school by 8:50am at the latest.** (We know that many children attend Breakfast Club and before-school clubs and they will continue at their usual times.) **Pupils who arrive late to school lose valuable teaching time at the beginning of each day.**

Over the years, we have worked hard to develop close relationships with pupils and families as we work to achieve the best for all involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

A. Farnell

Mr A. Farnell
(Head teacher)

