



Brighstone C.E. Aided Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

New Road – Brighstone – Isle of Wight – PO30 4BB – Telephone (01983) 740285

www.brighstoneprimary.org.uk

Charity Number: 307389

E-mail: office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk

Friday 27th May 2022

Attendance Matters

Dear parents and carers,

A good education is vital for children and young people and regular and punctual attendance at school is a key factor in helping children to make good progress, open up more opportunities in adult life and fulfil their potential.

One of the most important ways a parent can support the education of their child and the child's social, emotional and academic development is to ensure they attend every day and on time and avoid any unauthorised absences.

Ensuring a child's regular attendance at school is a parent/carer's legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without a good reason constitutes an offence in law and may result in a penalty notice or prosecution.

Did you know that:

- A child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life;
- Ten whole days of school has been missed if a pupil has 95% attendance – that's around 50 lessons;
- Twenty whole days of school has been missed if a pupil's attendance is 90%;
- If a pupil is persistently absent (90% attendance) they have missed 4 weeks of schooling;
- Being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing two weeks of school over the year;
- Catching up on missed lessons impacts on the pupil, the teacher and other pupils in that class.

When a child misses the start of the day, they miss learning time and vital information for the day. Children who arrive late disrupt others, therefore not only affecting their own learning but that of others in the class. Lateness can have a detrimental effect on a child's wellbeing, because it can be embarrassing for the child, which can then lead to further absence due to worries about entering the class once lessons have started. For our records, you will be asked for the reason for your child's lateness.

We acknowledge that each family's circumstances are different and we aim to work with parents to provide the best education for every child. We want to make sure that we can support your child's education in the best way possible, including reducing absence rates.

We know that illness is sometimes unavoidable and to be expected. However, not all illnesses need time off school. [This is a useful NHS guide on whether or not children can come into school with different types of illnesses.](#)

Letters are sent every term informing you of your child's attendance percentage and how this compares with our expectations. Separate letters will also be sent to parents where their child's attendance (including lateness) is of greater concern.

For further information, please see our [Attendance Policy](#) on the school website.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Melissa Jones (Family Liaison Officer) or myself.

We thank you for ensuring your child is in school on time every day and we look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you to further improve attendance and punctuality.

Kind regards,

Mrs Rebecca Lennon