



Ravenscote Junior School
Attendance Newsletter
September 2024

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Improving school attendance is everyone's business and, to tackle the challenge we face, we need to work together!

**"THIS MORNING,
HE HAD A
RUNNY NOSE...
BUT LOOK AT
HIM NOW!"**



**"THIS MORNING,
HE WAS WORRIED
ABOUT SCHOOL...
BUT LOOK AT HIM
NOW!"**



We are very proud of our attendance at Ravenscote.

Generally, our attendance is very good, however, we would like your help maintaining this. Good attendance at school is not just valuable: it's essential. Going to school is directly linked to improved exam performance which should, in turn, lead to further learning opportunities and better job prospects. As well as this, going to school helps your child to develop friendships.

What parents can do to ensure good attendance at school

- Create good routines for mornings at home so that your child can arrive punctually and ensure they are properly equipped with the right uniform, PE kit, school bag, pencil case, water bottle books, equipment for clubs etc.
- Read all school communications, including newsletters – this is how we communicate with parents.
- Let the school know the reason(s) for any absence and update the school daily.
- If they are feeling unwell in the morning, send your child into school later in the day if they are feeling better.
- Encourage and show interest; discuss their day with them.
- Check your child understands their homework and that it has been completed on time.
- Make medical/dental appointments out of school time.
- Do **not** take holidays or long weekends away during term time – these will never be approved.

It is important that your child attends school to receive a good education. By law, as a parent or carer, you must make sure that if your child is aged between five and 16 (compulsory school age), they receive a suitable full time education. This means that your child should not have sessions of unauthorised absence. During term times, your child should attend school regularly unless they are ill or the school has authorised their absence.

School ensures that children have the best start in life and that they are equipped for succeeding both academically and socially so that they can achieve in their exams and manage relationships.

Holiday Requests

Holiday requests are not authorised during term time.

In accordance with the school's attendance policy it is a parent's responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly.

From 1 September 2013, a change to government legislation means that schools are no longer allowed to authorise requests for children to be taken out of school for a holiday during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. These circumstances will be determined by Mrs Wells. You must allow at least two weeks for Mrs Wells to consider your request. It is important that all parents complete our Leave of Absence Form if their child requires time away from school. The Leave of Absence Form can be found on the school website.

Please email completed forms to Mrs Wells via the school office. Mrs Wells may request your travel confirmation if she feels this is necessary.

From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days. If a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160. Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period.

If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – the Local Authority will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under section 444 Education Act 1996.

Is my child too ill for school?

Is my child too ill for school? It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. The NHS website will help you decide if you should send your unwell child to school - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please also remember that if your child is unwell in the morning but feels better later on, they are very welcome to attend school later on in the day.

Appointments during the School Day

We would like to emphasise the importance of minimising disruption to the school day to ensure the best possible learning environment for all children. To achieve this, we kindly request that medical, dental and optician appointments be scheduled outside of school hours whenever possible. This will help to reduce the impact on your child's learning. If this is not possible proof of any ongoing medical appointments may be requested. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated, as it allows us to maintain a focused and productive educational environment.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Absent from school due to illness

If your child is unwell and will be absent from school, please remember to inform the school by 9am at the very latest, EACH DAY of their absence. Please report your child's absence by using your ScholarPack Parents App.

Getting Your Child to School on Time Matters

It is important that your child arrives to school on time. If they are late and miss the register, it may be recorded as an unauthorised absence. The school gate is open for pupils at 8.35am and registration closes at 8.45am.

5 minutes late each day = 3 days missed from school = 15 missed lessons each year

10 minutes late each day = 6 days missed from school = 30 missed lessons

15 minutes late each day = 9 days missed from school = 45 missed lessons

Late Collection from School or Clubs

School finishes promptly at 3.25pm and Ravenscote teacher led clubs finish at 4.30pm. It is expected that parents/carers collect their child(ren) on time.

Late collections may result in a fine.

The link between attendance and attainment is clear: In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders. But attendance is important for more than just attainment: Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.

Attendance Matters / Commitment Matters

Something to think about.....

There are 185 learning days each school year.

This means that there are 180 days for weekends away/holidays/ appointments etc.

95% attendance = 9.25 school days missed each school year.

95% attendance = 37 junior school days missed.

90% attendance = 18.5 school days of lost learning each school year.

90% attendance = 74 junior school days missed.

90% attendance = Over 14 junior school weeks missed.

80% attendance = 37 school days missed each school year.

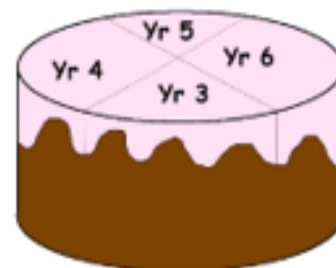
80% attendance = 152 junior school days missed.

80% attendance = 31 weeks of school missed during your child's time at junior school = Over 2 full terms of lost learning!

More than 150 English and maths lessons missed!

75% attendance = one full year of KS2 education lost!

You can't have your
cake and eat it!



75% attendance over 4 years
in junior school means 1 year's
education lost.

Which year can you afford
to lose?

The more time
spent in school,
the better your
child's attainment.

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Department
for Education