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Date: _____

Dear Parent / Carer,

Your child's attendance is below 95%.

Children are only in school for 190 days a year, which is just 52% of their year. It is therefore imperative that they are in school as much as possible so that gaps do not form in their knowledge and understanding.

Attending school on a regular basis is the key to your child doing well at school and will set them up with good habits for later life and the working world. Benefits include:

- Making lots of friends and feeling included
- Learning new things and developing many skills
- Increasing their confidence and self-esteem
- Improving social skills
- Be part of a school team or club
- Having better career prospects
- Achieving their potential and fulfilling aspirations

Also, when neural pathways are formed in the brain, they must be used within 24 hours of formation in order to embed them and therefore make connections. If a child's attendance is inconsistent, these connections will not be formed if significant time is missed, therefore their brain development will be impeded.

Please refer to the Department for Education's most recent research:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509679/The-link-between-absence-and-attainment-at-KS2-and-KS4-2013-to-2014-academic-year.pdf

If a child misses just one day a week, over the course of their school career they will miss two years of schooling.

"every lesson in school matters and children who have time off often find it difficult to catch up and do well at school..." DCSF 2006

90% attendance = half a day a week; over Key Stage Two this adds up to a whole term off school.

If there are any issues that we can help you with in order to help improve your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do everything we can to assist.

We all in this together – your child's future is a partnership. The more they are in school and the more support they get at home with their reading and times tables, the better life chances they will have; which is the greatest gift we can give our children.

Please do reach out if you'd like any support or advice: we have a very experienced and caring team.

With kind regards,

Mrs E McLean
Head Teacher

