



# Attendance Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,



Hello and welcome back!! I hope you have all had a lovely summer. We have had a fantastic start to the new academic school year.

Attendance and punctuality is still key. Please continue to send your children to school with minor illnesses, if your child has a mild illness please bring your child to school so we can take his/her temperature and make a decision together whether or not they are well enough to remain in school. If your child is too sick to be at school the absence will be authorised rather than unauthorised.

Absences need to be reported to the Attendance Officer. Failure to report an absence will result in a home visit being made by the Attendance Officer.

The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight the importance of attendance and punctuality. At Cloudside L.E.A.D Academy we have been working really hard to raise attendance levels and to reduce the instances of lateness. Please note school now starts at 8.30am with the latest time of arriving being 8.50am. If your child arrives between 8.51-9.15am your child will have a late mark recorded against their name. Any lateness from 9.15am onwards will be classed as unauthorised which can potentially lead to a referral to the Education Welfare Service for legal action to be considered.



## Attendance relating to Covid-19

To update you in relation to the updates from the Department for Education regarding school attendance. The following has changed:

- \* School attendance is now mandatory, the usual rules on attendance apply. It is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure children attend school.
- \* Pupils who are in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 **DO NOT** need to self-isolate. They should instead complete a Lateral Flow test if they have no symptoms or a PCR test if they are showing symptoms.
- \* The only time a child needs to remain at home is if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and require a PCR test themselves.
- \* If a parent/carer tests positive for COVID-19 it is still the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure your child attends school every day.
- \* Any absences relating to COVID-19 are now recorded as an 'Illness' which will affect your child's attendance percentage. A low attendance percentage can potentially lead to a referral to the Education Welfare Service where legal action can be considered.



## KEY FACTS

Our school attendance target is 97%. To fall below this, children need to have been off more than 7 days in the year which is quite a lot and more than an odd couple of days for a childhood ailment. The government guidance is that a child is classed as Persistently Absence if their absence drops below 90%. That means that they will have had more than 19 days off per year! Think of it another way, that means that they have missed the equivalent of half a day every week for the whole year!



# Let's talk about PUNCTUALITY



Minutes late per day	Learning time lost in a year
5 minutes	3½ days
10 minutes	7 days
15 minutes	10 ½ days
20 minutes	14 days
30 minutes	21 days

## WHY IS GOOD ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY IMPORTANT?

Good attendance and punctuality is key to doing well at school and developing children's sense of time. Children's life chances are greatly improved if they have a good education both academically and socially.

