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ATTENDANCE NEWSLETTER: Autumn 2026

Dear families,

This our termly newsletter that focuses purely on attendance (being here every day) and punctuality (always being here on time).

As a school, our attendance has improved significantly over the past few years, but we still want to continue to improve as we are not yet at the national average for attendance.

Being in school on time every day really helps your child to succeed and thrive. The tables below show how arriving just a few minutes late or missing just a few days over the school year can soon equal a lot of missed learning.

At Lemington Riverside we always want to work with our families to ensure your child's attendance and punctuality are the best they can be. Life is not straight forward and if there is something that you feel is impacting on your child's attendance or punctuality, please reach out to us as we can very often help to overcome problems or signpost you to somebody who can help. We have a dedicated attendance and welfare officer, Kim Cole, who works in school every day between 8:15am – 2:15pm. Kim is always happy to chat and can be contacted on 0191 267 4315 (Option 4) or by emailing kim.cole@lemingtonriverside.newcastle.sch.uk

Our senior staff in school regularly monitor the attendance of every child in school, if we see that your child's attendance is falling or starting to cause concern, we will get in touch for a chat. This is purely supportive as we want to sort any concerns quickly so that they don't become bigger. If problems concern, we work closely with the Local Authority Attendance Team who advise us on steps to take next.

Check out the images below which show the impact of not having great attendance and punctuality:



Every Day Counts!

0 DAYS OFF	100%	100%	Perfection
2 days off each year	10 lessons	99%	Excellent
5 days off each year	25 lessons	97%	Good
10 days off each year	50 lessons	95%	Slight concern
20 days off each year	100 lessons	90%	Concerned
30 days off each year	150 lessons	85%	Very concerned



AT LEMINGTON RIVERSIDE WE ARE PUNCTUAL AND PROUD!

Being on time, every day, really matters!

Children who are regularly late for school say things like:

"I feel embarrassed, everyone looks at me."

"I don't know what to do, everyone's started work."

"I miss my friends and they miss me."





ATTENDANCE STREAK CHALLENGE!

Over the school year we have started to introduce attendance streak challenges. We will tell the children when the attendance streak challenge begins and when it ends. All children who are in school, on time, for the full attendance streak challenge go into a prize draw.

The next attendance streak challenge starts on Monday 12 October and runs until Friday 23 October.

If your child is in school, on time, every day during this 10 day period they will be entered into the prize draw to visit Waterstones book shop to buy a book of their choice and enjoy a McDonalds lunch at the Metro Centre!

WHAT DO WE DO IF WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL?

If your child's attendance does begin to dip, we follow our agreed attendance procedures in school. [You can read all about our attendance procedures on our website by clicking here.](#)

IS MY CHILD WELL ENOUGH TO COME TO SCHOOL?

If your child is feeling a little under the weather, they can still attend school – we have detailed information of when/when not your child can attend school if they are feeling unwell. [Click here to see that information.](#)

Holidays during term-time cannot be authorised except in very exceptional circumstances. At Lemington Riverside we have an above average number of families taking holidays during term-time and therefore now refer all holidays during term time to the Local Authority.

We follow the Newcastle City Council and Department for Education guidance on holidays in term-times – this is the information from our attendance policy on term-times holidays:

“Any request for leave of absence due to holidays in term time will not be authorised. The Department for Education (DfE) does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreational circumstance, and therefore there is no entitlement in law to time off in term time. Young people who are absent from school fall behind in their learning. They miss out on school events. Many find it difficult to catch up. In addition, school staff have to divert their attention away from other young people in order to support those that have fallen behind due to a holiday related absence.

In the case of unauthorised leave of absences, incurring 10 or more unauthorised sessions (5 days) within 10 school weeks, consideration will be given if a referral should be made to the Local Authority for a fixed penalty notice to be issued or prosecution where repeated penalty notices have been issued. Where the threshold has not been met in the case of persistent avoidance, for example, repeated absence for birthdays or other family events, the school will have discretion to refer the case to the Local Authority. If in an individual case

the Local Authority believes a penalty notice would be appropriate, they retain the discretion to issue one before the threshold is met.”

GREENHOUSE SCHOOLS APP:

We use the **Greenhouse Schools** app for all communication from school. You can download the app from the Apple or Google Play stores to your mobile device. Once you have downloaded the app, search for Lemington Riverside Primary School and enter a one-time code (**1909**) to access our school.



Once you're in the app click on the **cog** symbol in the top right-hand corner and go to '**Notification settings**' where you can choose which updates you will get from school. Remember – **if your child has changed class, you will need to change your notification updates to your child's new class.**

As well as updates and communication from school, the app also allows you to let us know if your child is not going to be in school if they are unwell, has the latest news, newsletters, school calendar and term dates.

Best wishes,

Mr. Heeley (Headteacher)