

#WeAreLemington



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Attendance & Punctuality: Why do they matter?

Dear Parents, Carers and the community of Lemington,

I thought that I would write to you all to give a bit more information about **why** attendance (**being in school every day**) and punctuality (**being in on time**) are so important to us here at LRPS and to answer a few questions that I have been asked recently:

Why is it important for my child to be in school every day? (Good attendance):

- Children who attend well **achieve more** in school.
- Children who are in school regularly **make stronger friendships** and **learn more in school over time** (make better progress).
- Children who come to school regularly are in **good routines**.
- Children who come to school regularly **enjoy learning** because they don't miss lessons or chunks of teaching. Missing lots of learning can have a really bad impact on your child's mental health.

Why is it important for my child to be on time every day? (Good punctuality):

- Walking into a classroom late is **stressful** for children, they may have missed important instructions and this can have a knock on effect to their learning.
- If your child misses only 5 minutes a day, this soon builds up to **a lot** of learning time lost. A child who is 5 minutes late for 10 days in a school year has missed almost an hour of teaching time!
- **Children like being in organised routines** – being late often means a hectic start to the day – this isn't good for your child's mental health.

Term-time holidays: We know that holidays in term time are much cheaper than in the holidays (trust us, we have to take our holidays at the same time!!). That is why next school year we have added two teacher training days on to the end of May Half Term Holiday (1st and 2nd June 2020). Monday-Monday and Tuesday-Tuesday holidays both in the UK and abroad are much cheaper. **We hope this helps you take a cheaper holiday if you wish to, whilst not impacting on your child's attendance.**



- **Fact:** Over the past few years **our school has had one of the worst levels of attendance out of all of the primary schools in the entire city!** I am sure you will agree that this is not something we want associated with our school!
- **Fact:** The Government expects all schools to achieve **at least** 96.1% attendance – at the moment, our attendance as a whole school is 93% - **this is really low and we have to improve.**
- **Fact:** The Government and City Council **expect** me as Head Teacher and all of us to work together to improve attendance to nearer 96.1%. If we don't and attendance remains low, our school **will** be criticised in any future Ofsted inspections. This is why we make every effort to work with you if we are concerned about your child's attendance. **If your child's attendance dips down to the low 90%'s we will follow this process:**
 1. We will invite you in for a chat with either myself or Paula Stones our Family Support Worker. This is not a formal meeting & is nothing to worry about – it is simply an opportunity for us to talk through your child's attendance records. You can also talk to us about any ways we might be able to help you to improve your child's attendance. At these meetings we will offer you a Parent Contract – this is a simple record to show that we have met. It shows that you have taken the time to come and chat with us and recognise that we need to work together to improve your child's attendance.
 2. We will keep an eye on your child's attendance over the next few weeks – if there is no improvement and we are still worried, we will stop authorising days off. This means that unless you provide us with medical evidence (appointment cards, doctors notes, etc.) we cannot authorise the absence.
 3. If we are still concerned about the amount of unauthorised absences that your child is having then we will make a referral to the Local Authority. They will then monitor your child's attendance closely and if there is no improvement you may be fined or even prosecuted. **We don't ever want to get to this stage and want to work with you to avoid this happening!**

We know that many of our children have **EXCELLENT** attendance and we will always reward children whose attendance is above 96%. These are some of the ways that we reward good attendance at Lemington Riverside:



- **A termly experience for all children who achieve 98% + in a full term. Last term this was a cinema with popcorn, this term it will be a Nerf Party!**
- **A weekly book hamper draw in each class for all children who have been in on-time, every day.**
- **A weekly £10 Metro Centre/Eldon Square voucher draw across the school for all children who have been in on-time, every day.**
- **Postcards from school congratulating children with high attendance.**



I'm sure that you'll agree from reading this letter how important it is for our children and our school that we make sure attendance & punctuality are as brilliant as they can be. As Head Teacher, I want to focus my time and attention on making sure your child is having the best possible experience in school – please help me to do that by ensuring your child is in school on-time, every day. **Thank you!**

Take care,

Mr. Heeley - Head Teacher

Remember: There's lots more information in the attendance part of our school website including a useful document called 'Is my child too ill for school?'



@LemingtonRPS



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