



Attendance Newsletter

September 2023

Welcome

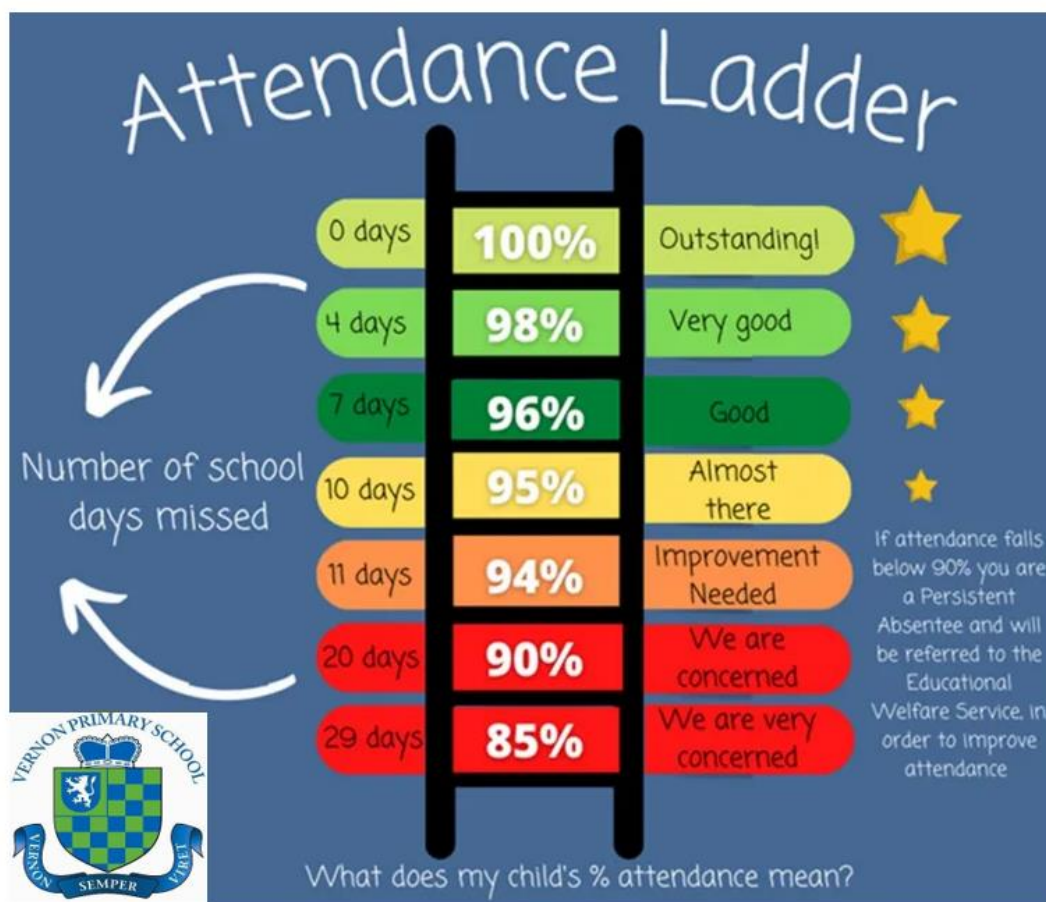
Welcome to our first attendance newsletter of the year; the aim is to promote the importance of attendance across the school community. It is really important that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance at school so that they can enjoy their learning and socialising with their peers. Last term we had a visit from the Attendance Officer at Cheshire East Council. The profile of attendance is a key priority for schools and as such they have instructed us to start to implement stricter measures for unauthorised absences of 5 days or more.

**Our School
Attendance
Target is 96%**

Every Day Counts!

Good attendance and punctuality is essential if pupils are to take full advantage of school and gain the appropriate skills to equip them for life. Research shows that attendance and punctuality are important factors in school success. Absence for whatever reason disadvantages a child by creating gaps in his or her learning. It is also important to ensure that our most vulnerable pupils are given the same opportunities, which may mean extra support in certain cases. The school monitor attendance and punctuality half termly and ensure quick and early intervention if a problem is identified.

What does my child's attendance percentage mean?



Leave of Absence Procedure

Leave of absence requests must be made in writing to the email address absence@vernonprimary.cheshire.sch.uk for the attention of the Headteacher at least 4 weeks prior to the first day of absence being requested. If you would like further information on our attendance procedures please refer to our Attendance Policy on the school website.

Leave of Absence During Term Time

Following DfE guidelines the Headteacher **cannot** grant any leave of absence during term time. Absence due to holiday will be recorded in the register as unauthorised. We ask for parental support in ensuring that family holidays **are not** taken during term time.



Cheshire East Penalties for unauthorised absence

Parents/carers should be aware that if your child of compulsory school age has 10 unauthorised sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of absence due to holiday in term time this will be referred to Cheshire East and may result in a school absence penalty notice (fine). Please see the table below.

| Timeline | One Child | Two Children |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Paid within 21 days | £60 per parent | £60 per child=£120 per parent |
| After 21 days and before 28 | £120 per parent | £120 per child = £240 per parent |
| After 28 days | Parents/carers will be summoned to appear before the magistrates' Court on the grounds they have failed to secure their child's regular attendance. | Parents/carers will be summoned to appear before the magistrates' Court on the grounds they have failed to secure their child's regular attendance. |

Parents can support regular school attendance by:

- Making sure their child leaves for school early enough to arrive at school on time.
- Making any medical appointments outside of school hours whenever possible. For medical appointments made within school hours medical evidence will be requested.
- Not taking children out of school for holidays in term time or for other unnecessary reasons.
- Contacting the school to discuss any concerns regarding their child's attendance.
- Working in partnership with the school to resolve any issues that are impacting on their child's attendance.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Attendance Team