

17 November 2025

Dear Parents & Families,

Over the past ten weeks of the academic year, you will be aware that the school has been monitoring attendance very closely. This has involved contacting families more frequently regarding absence, particularly if we have spotted developing patterns or increasing periods of absence.

Thank you for your continued support. Your efforts—including timely absence reporting, encouraging students to attend even when slightly unwell, and supportive conversations—are making a massive difference.

On Wednesday, the school received the Department for Education (DfE) report for the first term of the 2025/2026 academic year. We are pleased to share the positive findings with you:

- The report indicated significant improvements in overall attendance.
- We have seen greater numbers of students achieving attendance of 95% or above.
- There has been a pleasing reduction in the number of students who are persistently absent or who have unauthorised absences.
- Our weekly attendance figures are also consistently higher than those recorded last academic year and, indeed, over the past four years.

Whilst this report demonstrates some positive progress, we remain focused on ensuring that every student maximises their learning opportunities. We are still concerned that the attendance of certain students and year groups is not yet where it could, or should, be. We are also conscious that after such a positive start, attendance could slip if we do not maintain our collective efforts.

The winter months, particularly November through to January, often see the most significant declines in attendance. While we know that seasonal bugs are inevitable and sometimes mean students are genuinely unfit to attend, we also know there are occasions when students, much like adults in the workplace, could "give it a go" and come into school. We will always work with students and families when this is the case, and encourage you to reach out to us if you are unsure.

To further motivate and celebrate consistency, we have several reward schemes in place that we want your child to be able to take advantage of:

- **The 100 Club:** For 100% attendance in each individual calendar month.
- **The 'Three Week Streak':** A new scheme designed to recognise and celebrate students for consistent attendance over the middle weeks of the term.
- **Individual Attendance Awards-** for meeting key attendance thresholds or showing significant improvements,

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- **Termly Celebration Events:** Students must achieve at least 96% attendance to qualify for these events.

We want your child to have all of these valuable opportunities. By working together to prioritise attendance, we can help them achieve their full potential and build on the positive start we have seen since September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Balkwill', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Mr P Balkwill
Headteacher