



St Mary's C of E Primary School

Lansdown View, Timsbury, Bath, BA2 0JR

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10th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin the new academic year, we wanted to take a moment to highlight the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Both the Trust and the government believe that regular attendance should be a key focus for all our schools.

We understand that there can be challenges to ensuring your child attends school regularly. However, consistent school attendance is incredibly beneficial for your child's well-being and development. Being in school helps children build strong friendships, enjoy social interactions, and engage in a wide range of learning experiences that are crucial for their mental and emotional health.

Our attendance aspiration is 100% for this academic year but we recognise that children will miss school due to illness or other events in their lives. Our minimum expectation for 2024/25 is 96%, which allows for approximately 7 days of absence due to illness. This is still below typical school attendance of 97% pre-pandemic but we recognise that it will still take some time for us to achieve pre-pandemic levels of attendance. This standard ensures that children can take necessary sick days while still maintaining regular attendance. We kindly ask for your support in helping us achieve this goal, as we believe that your child's education and overall development will greatly benefit from consistent attendance.

The advantages of good attendance are numerous:

- **Improved Academic Performance:** Regular attendance helps children stay up-to-date with their lessons and reduces the likelihood of falling behind.
- **Social Development:** Consistent attendance allows children to form and maintain friendships, enhancing their social skills and sense of belonging.
- **Routine and Structure:** Attending school regularly helps children develop a sense of routine and structure, which is beneficial for their overall development.
- **Increased Opportunities:** Students who attend school regularly are more likely to participate in extracurricular activities and special events, enriching their school experience.
- **Better Mental Health:** Being part of the school community can boost children's confidence and self-esteem, contributing to better mental health.

We wish your child a very successful start to the new term and look forward to celebrating their progress with you over the forthcoming academic year.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Best wishes,

Mr Thomson
Head of School