



Gusford Primary School

"Promoting Achievement and Success."

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Headteacher: Mr C Tapscott B.A. (Hons)

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Dear Parents,

When I was younger and got a test result back, if I got anything over 70% I was delighted. With attendance figures at school it does not work in quite the same way and the government has set us the target of 96% for attendance. This is because every day in school counts. If you are not in school, you miss the opportunity to learn.

So let's consider what a percentage off school equates to in real terms. There are 190 school days in a year. So 10% off is 19 days. That is the equivalent to nearly 4 school weeks. That is a lot of learning missed. If you take my 70% test score example that would be 57 days, which is just over 11 school weeks. This is not far off a term off school.

The school has 3 colour zones that we consider with attendance.

Green Zone	Amber Zone	Red Zone
96% or above	93% to 95.9%	Below 93%
This is what we are aiming for.	It is warning us we are not quite where we should be	This is becoming dangerously low.

Last week our attendance was 92.9% which is in the red zone. We know we had some bugs going around school and so this would have impacted us. However we have only been in the Green zone in the first 3 weeks of the school year and the rest, until last week, have been in the amber zone. Our overall percentage is 95% since the start of the year, which I know sounds ok, but still means that is the equivalent to every child in school being off for a week since the start of the year.

I am sure all parents want their children to be at school, enjoying their friends' company and learning. I would like to thank parents who encourage children into school, even when they feel slightly under the weather. Some children have had great attendance, for example this week we are giving children certificates who had 100% attendance for Autumn half term 2.

There are some children though with low attendance and the Family Engagement Team will be in contact with those families to see how attendance can be improved. I know that all parents love their children and it can be tricky when they feel slightly poorly. As a guide if they have a considerable temperature or have sickness or diarrhoea then they should be off. Otherwise please send them into school. If they become too poorly then we will give you a call.

Learning and social experience in school is so important and so we want your child to experience as much opportunity for this. Please continue to help us aspire to children being in school as much as possible and let's see if we can start to hit that green zone again.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Tapscott
Headteacher.

