

FISHBURN PRIMARY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

2022 - 2023 (December 2022)

Punctuality – Show your child you think school is important!

Arriving late gives your child an unsettled start to their school day. Children thrive on routine, and do not like to stand out from their friends. Having to join the class when everybody else is settled and ready to learn can embarrass and worry many children. Just five minutes late will mean they may have missed the opportunity to share important news or messages with their teacher, who is trying to introduce the learning for the day. A regular five minutes a day adds up to a whole three days a year! Ten minutes late and the most important learning for the day is often lost as the child will be arriving after tasks have been introduced, and are starting the day at a disadvantage.

Attendance – Every day counts! Missing school is missing out!

Irregular attendance can seriously disrupt continuity of learning, as lessons in school are designed to build on each other.

Although staff work hard to try and make sure that any missing steps are re-taught, it can sometimes not be obvious for some time that a 'missing link' is holding back learning. In this way absence can undermine educational progress and often leads to underachievement and low attainment. Another serious consequence of low attendance is that it impedes a child's ability to develop friendships within school. Making friends and building lasting relationships are vital in helping children to feel happy and confident in school. In this way, regular and punctual attendance supports children to reach their full potential.

We understand that our young children are naturally going to be affected by first-time illnesses such as chicken pox. In addition, young children can be particularly susceptible to bugs and viruses, and easily pass germs around their friends! It would be impossible to expect that children will not miss sessions through illness, as this cannot be avoided. For this reason it is essential that children are only kept away from school if they are really unfit to attend. Minor illnesses, coughs, colds and sore throats can often be treated effectively with child dose painkillers and do not warrant time away from school.

Understanding types of absence

Every ½ day absence from school, by law, has to be classified as either authorised or unauthorised. This is why information about the cause of absence is always asked for. Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a good reason such as illness, medical appointments and emergencies. An absence is classified as unauthorised, if the reason was not recognised as acceptable. The Department for Education (DfE) and Local Education Authorities provide information for schools as what is acceptable and what is not. Examples of reasons that would not be accepted:

- A birthday
- A shopping trip
- Day trips
- Holidays – unless have been agreed as exceptional circumstances

What should I do if my child is absent from school?

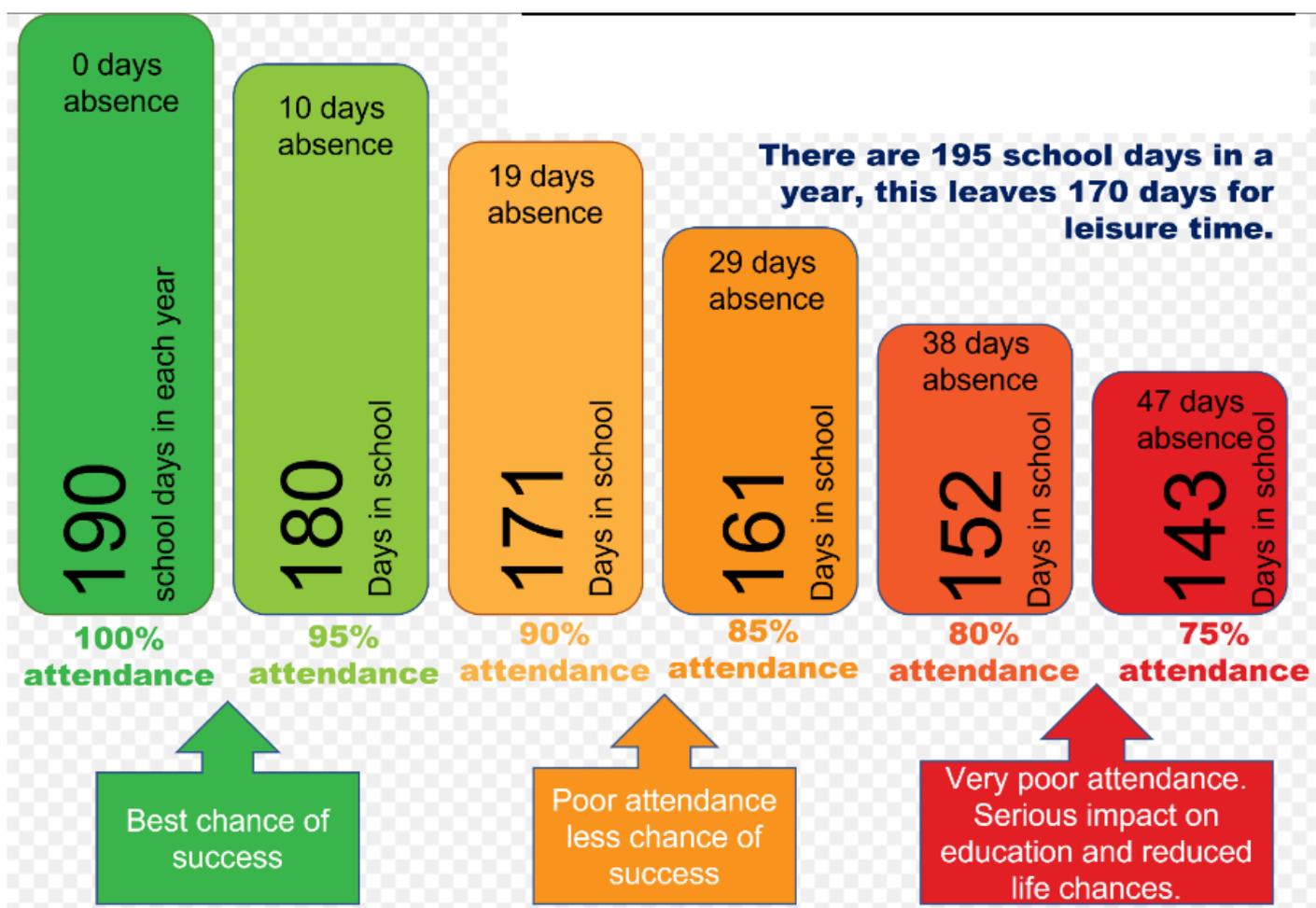
Contact the school office on the first morning before and notify us of the absence and provide a reason.



Top tips for improving attendance

- Show your child **you** think school is important by sending them every day on time.
- If your child tells you they are ill don't just let them have the day off. In the case of headaches, tummy aches and sore throats we advise they have a dose of a child friendly pain killer then bring them into school. We can always contact you to take them home if they continue to show symptoms of illness.
- Tired children often don't arrive on time and find it difficult to learn in school. Set strict bedtime routines on school nights and make sure you stick to them. (This may be hard at first and may take time to implement but, will be well worth it in the end!)
- Set a routine for each morning, make sure the alarm goes off at the same time every day and everyone gets up when it goes off.
- Organise holidays and days out at weekends or in the school holidays. Holidays in the summer **are** more expensive and not everyone can have time off in July and August, but there are still the two week holidays at Christmas and Easter and the half term holidays in February, May and October.

**Remember – if your child is absent for just one day a week, over the course of their school career they will miss two years of schooling!!!
Every day counts! Missing school is missing out!**



ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW