

What to do when your child is absent

We understand that occasionally your child may be too poorly to come to school. When this is the case, it is important you let the school know that your child will not be in that day. Phone us on 0151 639 9787 and either press option 1 and leave a message, or speak to a member of the office staff. Alternatively, you can use the Arbor app to send a message or text the school. We have a duty of care to know where our children are when they should be in school, if we do not know, we may have to make a home visit, or arrange an attendance meeting in school. Failure to engage may result in a referral to the Wirral Attendance Service.

There are many reasons why you may feel a child is too poorly to come to school, but it does not always mean they have a sickness bug or need to stay off. Please consider this when deciding if your child is well enough to come to school or not. Equally if you have kept them off in the morning but they improve, bring them in for their afternoon mark. Please do not keep your child off unless you feel they really are not well enough to come to school. With many illnesses, your child is still welcome to be in school, [HERE](#) is a list of common childhood illnesses for you to refer to. We have qualified first aiders on site and staff trained in administering medication. If you are ever unsure, please speak to a member of staff to clarify.

When possible you should make all medical/dental appointments for outside school hours. Coming and going from class disrupts lessons and learning time. In addition, we ask you give us notice and proof of any appointments.

Speak to us, be honest and accept the support and guidance that we offer to families. We want to work together to ensure that your child is in school every day, on time and ready to learn and get the most from all opportunities that we give to our children.

Let's take attendance seriously together!

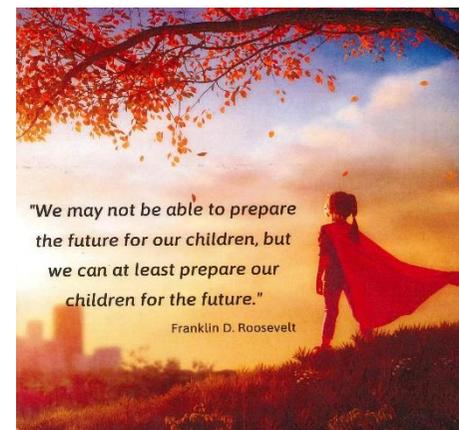
EVERY DAY COUNTS, EVERY MINUTE MATTERS

As a parent/carer, it is your responsibility to make sure your child is in school and on time. If your child's attendance falls below 90% or they are constantly late for school, you will be invited in for a meeting with Miss Evans and other professionals to discuss the matter. If the things do not improve we will be forced to give you a fixed penalty notice and fine of £60 (rising to £120 if not paid within 21 days).

**EVERY DAY COUNTS AT RIVERSIDE!
WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE WE MISS YOU!**



Riverside Primary Attendance Information Booklet 2022



Ancora Imparo

EVERY DAY COUNTS, EVERY MINUTE MATTERS

Why is Attendance so Important?

Our children have missed so much during the last 2 years, both academically and socially. They should **NEVER** be kept off school unless it is absolutely essential. We do not set targets for attendance, as it is **an expectation that EVERY child should be in school EVERY DAY** that we are open. Every day not in school, is a chunk of learning missed by your child. A child with poor attendance will often struggle with their education and easily fall behind. It also impacts their social and emotional development and mental health and wellbeing. Children only get one chance at school- we need to make sure:

EVERY DAY COUNTS, EVERY MINUTE MATTERS

“...But my child’s attendance is good! It’s 90%...”

90% is a high percentage if you are taking a test, but not when talking about attendance. In fact, a child who has a 90% attendance rate is missing a huge amount of school ...

- 90% or less is the equivalent of missing **19 days of school**.
- 90% or less is the same as them missing **four whole weeks over the school year**.
- If your child’s attendance stays at 90% for the seven years of primary school, they would have missed the same as **three quarters of a school year in that time**.
- Your child also could be missing out **socially** by not being in school, making friends is also a huge part about being in school, and by regularly missing school **may affect their ability to make and keep friendships**.
- Attending school every day gives children a sense of purpose and belonging, where their **emotional resilience** is developed and they **build their self-confidence and coping strategies** to support them through the rest of their life.

High rates of absence are often an indicator of the need for extra support. We want to work with you to ensure the best for your child. Our Pastoral Lead - Debbie Bowness and Attendance Lead/Family Support - Jayne Evans, are always available to help.

Debbie can be contacted on the school mobile number - 07955 703 575.

Poor Attendance & the Impact on Children

Less than 65% of children get good results in Maths and English when they have an average of 15 days of absence a year.

If a child had an attendance percentage of 80% from F2 to Year 6, then this is equivalent to missing more than entire year of school.

It is very hard to catch up on work that has been missed, especially in younger years when they are learning the foundations of how to read and write. Our children are already ‘catching up’ on lost learning time from the pandemic, lockdown and COVID related disruption to school attendance- they do not need to miss any more time.

The main impact that we see is on children’s emotional wellbeing, ability to socialise and build meaningful relationships. Routines, stability and a sense of belonging is vitally important for all children to thrive and succeed.

Monitoring attendance:

Green 96% to 100% - celebration letter

Amber 90% to 95.9% - letter to advise monitoring attendance

Red below 90% - Attendance Panel letter

What the Law Says

As a parent, you **MUST** make sure your child gets a full time education that meets their needs. It is a legal requirement for your child to be in school and on time every day. We can support and work with you to help achieve this.

Holidays in Term Time

As a school, we do not allow holidays in term time. Mrs Lahive may authorise absences on rare occasions but this must be requested a minimum of two weeks prior in writing and the exceptional circumstances for the request must be made clear. The ‘Application for Leave during either Term Time’ form can be downloaded [HERE](#) or pick up a copy from the school office. If you take your child on holiday in term time, it will be noted on their records as an unauthorised absence and you may be fined by Wirral Council for £60 per parent per child, which would rise to £120 if not paid within 21 days, Section 44 Education Act 1996.