

# Thames View Infants



Bastable Avenue  
Barking  
Essex, IG11 0LG  
020 82704317  
07950 440 843 (texts only)

Paul Jordan Headteacher  
Paul.Jordan@TVIacademy.org

Claire Smith Deputy Headteacher  
Claire.Smith@TVIacademy.org

Office@TVIacademy.org  
ThamesViewInfants.org  
We Tube @TVInfants

28<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers;

## Remembering the "old normal"...

I'm writing to ask you to do your best to get everyone into School – wherever possible – everyday.

You'll know from the news, from talking to me in person and from my online #HeadteachersUpdates, that we all have a huge job to do in helping our children catch up with learning missed caused by the lock-downs.

In some instances, due to unavoidable self-isolation and School closures, some children have missed as much as 75% of their learning so far this year.

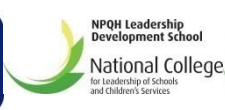
Sadly, behind their happy faces and enthusiasm, there are huge gaps in children's learning: gaps in social and emotional development, speech and language acquisition, fine and gross motor control, and of course, academic learning. I need your help to act now so that we can address this.

Obviously, we still need to uphold all the COVID-guidance, but if your child is poorly, when you call in before 9:45am to tell us, you'll notice that my Office Staff and my Attendance Team may ask you slightly different questions: they'll be trying to sensitively identify whether your child might actually be well enough to attend School.

...And this type of conversation may sound different to you. So, if that's the case, please bear with us: it's a good sign and shows how we are all carefully managing the transition back to something more like the old-normal.

Thank you for your patience, too. Currently transmission rates are low and keeping everyone safe is still at the heart of what we do; but helping us get everyone used to children attending School everyday – like clockwork – will help them enormously with their future careers. Thanks for your support!

Paul Jordan  
Headteacher



We're a PAPERLESS School – so you must download & register your ParentMail App to receive e-newsletters, to book after-school clubs & Parents' meetings or to confirm consent for educational visits.

# Coming to School Every Day Matters!

At TVI we expect children to come to school every day.

It is a legal requirement that children should attend school regularly and that their parents or carers make sure this happens. Any absence, except for ill health, is discouraged.



**Any family holidays absolutely must be taken during published school holidays.**



**We will not grant permission for any family holidays during term time. If you take unauthorised leave or exceed agreed return-by dates will risk:**

- A Fixed Penalty Notice (a fine) per adult AND per child (even if other children attend a different school).
- Losing your child's school place.
- Re-registering with the Local Authority for a new school place.
- Your Family details passed to the Borough's Attendance Officer.

If your child does not want to come to school then talk to us. There might be a reason for this and we will work together to help solve the problem.

## What should I do if my child is ill?

**If your child is really very poorly then they should stay at home and recover in bed. Generally speaking, we say that if they are well enough to be "up and about" at home, children are usually well enough to be in school. However, we also have to follow guidance from the DfE and Public Health England too – so in all cases, the more we communicate about ill health, the better.**



**Obviously, at present, we have the added complication of Covid-19 and very strict guidelines which we are required to abide by if a child presents with any of the symptoms of this illness. Please see my previous letters detailing our Covid-19 guidelines for more information about what to do if either you, your child or someone else in your household presents with any of the symptoms of Covid-19.**



If your child is poorly for any reason at all, we ask you to call **(020 8270 4317)** our school office by 10am on each and every day of their absence and tell us how they are doing. Doing so is your responsibility. Please note that we cannot accept email notifications of absence.

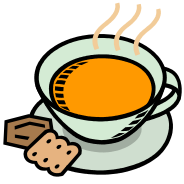
We offer a very caring and supportive environment, and can help your child return back to school in lots of ways:



- Giving essential, prescribed medicines to your child (if you complete a special form from the school office).



- Keeping an 'extra eye' on your child whilst they recover and letting you know 'how they are doing'.
- Talking to the GPs at the neighbouring Thames View Medical Centre if need be.
- Providing them with alternative food choices at lunchtimes (by special arrangement) .
- Working with you and your child if they aren't settling or if you are having trouble getting them to school each morning.
- Helping them catch up on work they have missed.



### What is "good attendance"?



It can be very damaging to a child's education if they do not come to school regularly. The more time children have off, the less they learn and the less they want to come to school! This can become a vicious circle!



We are very lucky, because children are very rarely absent at our school.

Our school is a caring and happy environment. We try our best and our school is one of the highest achieving schools in the country.

With a long waiting list, it's not fair for those families that want to send their child to our school, but can't because it is full.

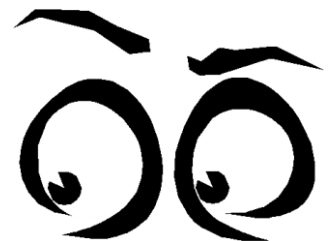
### How do I know what my child's attendance is?

We work in partnership with our families and, as a school, we continually monitor attendance. More often than not, you will already know if your child's attendance has dropped because at some point, we will have spoken about it together.

- ✓ 100% (never absent)
- ✓ 97% (about half-a-day absenteeism per month)

- ✗ Under 95% (half-a-day absenteeism per fortnight)
- ✗ Under 90% (half-a-day per week)
- ✗ Under 85% (almost one day per week)
- ✗ Under 75% (almost a day-and-a-half per week)

**! DANGER**



Although attending for '90%' of the time sounds high, it's low. Over a child's educational career, the missed 10% could amount to losing a whole academic year of schooling. The DfE consider any children with an attendance of 90% or lower to be 'Persistent Absentee's'.





## What are the effects of low attendance?

Not attending school regularly can be very damaging to a child's education. Statistically, it is the children with more than 97% attendance that get better exam grades and are more likely to get a good job in later life.

Children with poor attendance have trouble feeling included within school life and tend to have difficulties forming friendships.

Children find it increasingly more difficult to 'catch up' with the work they have missed if they are absent regularly.

Often, it is the children not in school regularly that are often regarded as the most vulnerable. Statistically, children with attendance of less than 80% (missing, on average, a day a week), will find it difficult to secure and hold down a good job and – sadly – are at the greatest risk of criminal activity in later life.

Our Academy Trust works very closely with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Local Authority, who will prosecute families failing to ensure their child attends school regularly, as it is an offence. Parents/Carers run the risk of being fined, or taken to court, having to attend parenting classes or even imprisoned in the most serious cases.

We do not want this to happen to any family.



## Other important advice...

It's important to be on time to School, especially at present with our Covid-19 staggered starts to the beginning and end of each day. However, if you are running late, still bring your child in... don't be embarrassed and keep them at home... We'd rather have children arriving late than not arriving at all!

If you have a medical appointment during the day, bring your child into school to get their mark and then come back to collect them nearer the time. Whatever the time of the appointment, we will work around your arrangements to help you.

If you are having a real emergency at home, we might be able to help you by allowing your child to start school a little earlier or finishing later. If this is the case, don't panic and keep your child at home, bring them into school and talk with us.

Bereavements and family losses are very sad and fortunately, quite rare. In our experience, children are quite robust at these times. We find that children benefit from the normality and structure of everyday school-life, allowing parents and other family members to grieve at home (and to organise things). If you do experience such sad news, again, please come and talk to us. We'll see how we can help.



Our school is a caring and happy environment. Children enjoy coming to school. Children rarely fall out with others and my staff really try their best to make sure that ***"every child matters"***. We have a good reputation and there is a long waiting list to get a place at our school.

I thank you for your support in this important matter. Remember, my staff and I are always available to listen to your feedback or to find ways to help with any worries you might have. Only by working together in partnership will we be able to really help our children do their best and reach their full potentials for later life.

Thank you once again,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Jordan'.

Paul Jordan  
***Headteacher***