

Thames View Infants



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Dear Parents/Carers;

Will you get an Attendance Letter on Friday?



It's lovely to see things slowly starting to return to normal both inside and outside of school. Those of you with children in KS1 or above will remember that, before the pandemic, here at TVI attendance in school has always been given a very high priority. Our school is one of the highest attaining schools nationally and attendance in our school is the highest in the borough. This is of course no co-incidence; it's a well know fact that children with the best attendance in school, more often than not, go on to become the highest attainers.

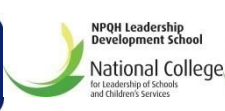
Because we know that attendance has such a significant impact on our children's attainment, we work in partnership with our families when it comes to this matter and it's something that we monitor extremely closely. Prior to the pandemic you would have known if your child's attendance had dropped because at some point we would have spoken about it together and you may have even received a letter from us.

Things are returning to normal now and so we are getting back to some of our pre-pandemic routines, including Attendance letters. This week our Attendance Leader, Leandra Bempong, will be writing to any of our families who have a child whose attendance is under 95% so far this academic year. Please note that if your child has been absent from school for any Covid-19 related reasons whatsoever, these days will NOT be included in this calculation.

Why 95%? Isn't that high?

Some people would think that 90% attendance sounds high. Unfortunately it isn't - it's low. A child with 90% attendance misses half a day of school per week. Over a child's educational career, the missed 10% could amount to losing a whole year of schooling.

The Department for Education (DfE) consider any children with an attendance of 90% or lower to be 'Persistent Absentee's',



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.

At Thames View Infants we don't want *any* children to fall into this category. Even 95% attendance rings alarm bells for us since this equates to half a day of absenteeism every fortnight.

Therefore, if you receive one of Leandra's letters on Friday, it's really important that you make a concerted effort to work with us to improve your child's attendance. As mentioned above, the percentage that we calculate will only take into account days of absence that are completely non-Covid related.

The children have already missed so much school this past year. In school we're doing all that we can to get the children back on track to where they would have been pre-pandemic. It's all hands on deck at the moment in school and the children are doing really well at catching up. However, with so much lost time, every school day counts more now than ever before and so please, unless your child is really poorly or you have a genuine home emergency – make sure that your child is in school and on time, every single day.

If there's a problem getting your child into school every day, then please come and talk to us. We will always do all that we can to help and support you.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Jordan
Headteacher

