



Mundford Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Godbold

St Leonard's Street, Mundford, Thetford, IP26 5ED

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Tuesday 19th March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with a large problem the school faces that only you can help us solve. The staff at Mundford work hard to give your child fantastic, enriched and creative learning experiences. Every day at school is careful planned to maximise their learning and this is where we need your help. In short Mundford's attendance is consistently below the National average of 97%.

Below shows the attendance rates for 2018-2019 so far this academic year

Overall attendance so far: 95.3%

Aut 1: 95.65%

Aut 2: 95.1%

Spr 1: 94.71%

Spr 2: 96.28%

As you can see we have yet to meet the national attendance figure this year. Below I have attempted to breakdown the attendance data:

We currently have 164 pupils giving a total of 37,254 sessions (am & pm) to date. So far this year:

1,035 sessions have been lost to illness.

251 sessions have been lost to unauthorised holiday.

72 sessions have been lost to general unauthorised absence (no explanation given to absence from school).

94 sessions have been marked as late (arriving after registration).

We acknowledge illness cannot be helped and children need time to recover. However, the other sessions are within your control. Research shows that there is a direct link between good attendance and achievement in school. Pupils who are taken out of school term time often find it hard to catch up and this can have a detrimental effect on their learning and attainment.



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- For example, 90% attendance might sound good but what that means is:
- On average half a days school missed every week.
- 4 weeks of school missed a year.
- 120 lessons missed in the school year.
- Being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing two weeks of school.

We want all children at our school to get the most out of their education, and attending school regularly is an important part of your child's education. Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life. Poor school attendance damages educational achievement and the future progress of young people. Promoting and supporting good attendance at school is essential to learning and attainment.

We really need your help to address this issue and bring us back in line with the other schools across the country. You can help by: Making sure that your child comes to school regularly and arrives on time. It's a good idea to start these positive habits at an early age, when your child first starts school.

- If your child is ill, contact the school on the first day of your child's illness. We will be concerned if we do not hear anything.
- If your child is ever off school, you must tell us why. You can do this by contacting the school office.
- If you want permission for your child to miss school, for example because of a special occasion such as a wedding, you should ask for permission well in advance and give full details.
- We will not authorise time off school for events such as shopping trips or holidays. (The law states that parents do not have the right to take their children out of school for the holidays during term time).
- There are 175 non-school days a year to spend on family time, visits, appointments, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments. Where possible try to book these things on those days to avoid time lost at school.
- Showing children that attending school every day is very important helps them to see the value of their education and in turn sets them up for high school and continuing their learning beyond that.

If we work together we can improve our attendance bringing us in line with all the other schools around the country.

Many thanks,
Mrs Godbold.