

5th March 2019

ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer

To get the most out of education, children need to come to school **every day**. School attendance has a major influence on educational outcomes. Pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve better results at school and are more likely to complete their schooling. Parents can encourage their child to attend school by having a positive attitude to learning and education. Poor school attendance patterns can start as early as the Reception year. It is important that from the first day of school parents set an expectation that their children will be at school every day. Missing an average of ten days of school a term adds up to missing two full years of schooling by the end of Year 10. Family Education lists the development of important social skills as one of the leading reasons to send a child to school. By interacting with other children at an early age, children learn how to take turns, how to listen and how to share. Playing with other children also helps them learn about their own personalities, and their own likes and dislikes. The independence that children gain in school is also a lesson that is hard to learn at home. Social development doesn't stop in an infant school. Throughout primary and secondary school, children learn how to negotiate, compromise and interact with their peers. Without learning these valuable skills as children, individuals would struggle in a professional setting when they are old enough to start working.

We have spoken to the children in assemblies or through class discussion about the importance of coming to school. Those who come in with a cold, slight sore throat, hurt leg etc are congratulated for coming in and all children are encouraged to look after those who are feeling a little below par. The children are however, told that if they do have diarrhoea or are vomiting it is very important they DON'T come to school as we don't want to pass germs on. They are frequently reminded to 'flush, wash' after they have been to the toilet and to cover their mouths if they cough or sneeze. Holidays are NOT authorised.

In order to celebrate the attendance at Alwyn Infant School we give stickers and certificates to individuals for 100% attendance each short term. Every month the class with the most attendance will be given a class certificate to display in their cloakroom. They are applauded in our celebration assembly and offered a day to come to school in their regular clothes.

In February **1KM** had a fantastic percentage of 98.21% attendance. They will therefore be allowed to come to school on Friday 8th March in their regular clothes, not their school uniform. We hope this will remind and encourage the rest of the school that coming to school every day is rewarded. Please help us by encouraging the same.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Evans
Attendance monitor