



**BARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL
BURNLEY CAMPUS
BARDEN LANE BURNLEY
BB10 1JD
Telephone No: 01282 226777**

School Attendance Matters Newsletter—February 2023

Dear Parent and Carers,

Congratulations! You've made it through the snow, ice and wind of January. Thank you for persevering with the weather and still getting your children to school. I hear the birds singing most mornings so that can only mean one thing, Spring is not so far away now.

Appointments

Since the last newsletter at the end of November, the number of medical appointments taken in school time has reduced from 13% to 7% which is a great effort, thank you. We understand that making appointments outside school time is tricky but school really appreciates your efforts and in the long run, it is the children that benefit the most by staying in school and completing their lessons in full. Please keep asking our health care professionals for appointments after 3pm where possible. I promise they won't bite!



Weather

December and January's weather really did give us a reminder that even at the times of climate warming, we can still expect snow and ice through the Winter in the UK. Unfortunately, the seasonal weather did make an impact on our journeys to school making many pupils late. Although some delays were unavoidable as some main roads were not gritted as residents had hoped, many of our pupils live within a 20 minutes walk of school and with a little planning, some could have altered their routines to still arrive on time. Please could school ask that parents check the weather forecast the night before to anticipate the morning challenges and **build in an extra 10 minutes** so that ice can be scrapped off the cars, snow can be shovelled and more time is allowed to walk or drive to school so to **arrive by 8.35am**. As a top tip, pupils could aim to attend Go Noodle, **our free exercise class held in the school hall every day from 8.20am**, and if you don't quite arrive in time, you've definitely arrived in time for class at 8.35am!



Illness

Thankfully, it seems that Chicken Pox has subsided for the moment. Also, it seems that the Strep A and Scarlet Fever type symptoms have settled too. While school would like to have all pupils attend school everyday, please remain vigilant regarding symptoms that display rashes and high temperature and consult the **NHS website, 111, your local Pharmacist and your GP for medical advice and attention.**

Although illness in young children is common especially following Covid, please don't leave it too long before taking advice from Pharmacists, especially if you can't make a doctor's appointment quickly. A boost to the immune system with healthy foods like fruit and vegetable, extra sleep, fresh air and medication where necessary, can speed up recovery, which is what we hope for as a school. The website for the NHS is www.nhs.uk/conditions also see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/strep-a/>



Punctuality

Letters have been sent out to parent of children where rates of attendance of punctuality are low. Our School is aware that some parents will be receiving letters where pupils have been unfortunately ill on more than one occasion, which we understand mostly cannot be helped. However, it's our duty to let parents know of their child's attendance and punctuality so that improvements can be made and pupils can get the full benefit of their education that we are so lucky to have in the UK. Parents are being invited to attend a **1:1 Attendance and Punctuality Clinic** so we can work together on solutions. On **Wednesday 8th February**, school is making this our **"Don't be Late Wednesday"**. We ask that parents support school in ensuring that pupils arrive by their classroom door by **8.35am**. We aim to stop lateness on this day initially, so that unnecessary disruption is removed from the start of the day and pupils are ready to learn from 8.45am giving them every chance to success in life.



Holidays in Term Time

Holidays in term time are not permitted. **This is at the direction of the government.** We have many families that have taken or are about to take trips in school time. It is most concerning that so far this year:

- 60 pupils have gone or about to go on unauthorised extended leave, which accounts for 1/8 children going on Extended Leave this academic year.
- 44 Request for Leave of Absence Forms have been made.
- 926 school days have been lost or will be lost which is the same as nearly 5 school years.
- 44 Penalty Notices have been raised to date with many waiting to be processed.

If a leave of absence is required the correct process approved by the School Governors is:

- Completed a Request for Leave of Absence Form.
- Make an appointment to meet with Mrs Holgate the Headteacher.
- Make travel arrangement and provide school with the flight tickets .



This process has been agreed by the Governors and is in the School Attendance Policy. It also demonstrates incredibly poor manners to take your child out of school without informing us you are going to be away. School also requires a copy of the outbound and return flights with as much notice as possible. We recognise that parents have reasons to travel but school asks that leave is taken during the 13 weeks school holidays as lost learning cannot be caught up. Taking Extended Leave in term time also puts your child's school place at risk at a time when over 270 children in East Lancashire are not enrolled in a school and are waiting for a school place.

Extended leave must be notified by the parents or the legal guardians of the pupils.

It is not acceptable that no information is provided to school on the whereabouts of our pupils.



Reasons why not to book Extended Leave in school time:

- The lost learning experiences in class can never be relived. Pupils miss school trips and visitors to school which all form part of childhood memories.
- Children's friendships will move on in your child's absence, making it difficult for your child to readjust upon their return leaving the child feeling excluded.
- Lost learning create gaps in understanding which may have a knock on effect in the future beyond primary school.
- Lost time in school creates unnecessary worry and anxiety in children when they realise that their peers and class mate are ahead in learning.
- Teachers and Teaching Assistants time is unfairly taken away from the rest of the class that has been attending school regularly to help children who been on Extended Leave.

Attendance Achievements

So far this year (01/09/2022 to 02/02/23), we have 51 pupils have that have 100% attendance. This is down from 119 since the last newsletter in November.

100% attendance certificates were given out earlier in January. Many congratulations to you all! These pupils have a chance of being able to win our shiny red bike at the end of the year in a free prize draw. Please keep it up.

Thank you to all parents for getting your child to school.

Please help us make your children's dreams come true by being able to provide them a full education and allowing them to be the **best that they can be.**

Yours faithfully

Mrs L. Rawcliffe
Attendance Manager

School Calendar for 2023-24 (from September 2023).

This is also displayed on our school website

[News and Events / Holidays](#)

Green Days are when the school is closed for INSET (training) days

Blue Days are when school is closed for school holidays

September 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31