



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

School Attendance Matters Newsletter—December 2022

Dear Parent and Carers,

I can hardly believe that we have less than two weeks left of the Autumn Term before Christmas and so I thought it would be the perfect time to contact you all. Thank you again for making me feel so welcome; I've enjoyed getting to know the pupils, parents and carers at Parents' Evening and day to day. I just wanted to share a few thoughts with you before the festive season takes hold:

Appointments

There are many children leaving school for routine appointments in school time. Some are urgent appointments or scheduled NHS appointments however, there are still many parents booking appointments in school time to meet the parent's convenience and not to meet the need of the child being in school. So far this year, 13% of pupils have taken at least one appointment in the school day. Please work with medical professionals to book appointments where possible outside of the school day, who will not take offence by a parent asking for an after-school appointment. If a school appointment is unavoidable, please make it towards the end of the day before home time, providing the School Office with sufficient notice of the appointment so a child can be collected from their class, which sometimes is at the other side of campus. In line with our Attendance Policy, you **must** provide a text, appointment card or letter as evidence. Failure to do so will result in the **absence being recorded as unauthorised** and not as a medical appointment. Please note that a number of unauthorised marks may result in a Penalty Notice in the future.



Weather

This week the weather has been rather cold and icy as is usual for the British Autumn and Winter season. Please check the forecast the night before and build in extra time into your morning routines in order to leave home sooner and arrive to school on time and ready to learn.



Illness

As the seasons change, more of our time is spent in doors with friends and family creating the perfect environment for germs to breed so we expect that pupils will become ill from time to time. Please think to whether your child needs to stay off school with what are considered to be common colds. **It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional — www.gov.uk. Please see advice for Strep A— <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/sore-throat/>** . Please treat the symptoms, take advice from your doctor, pharmacist or call 111 as soon as you feel necessary and take steps to aid recovery such as eating a balanced diet, drinking lots of water and take some fresh air. Fresh air and swimming do not cause colds and taking a park walk, for most, is a good way to improving physical and mental health.

DON'T BE LATE !



Punctuality

We have many children that are still arriving to school late, which is a huge shame as most are just one or two minutes late meaning that they are picking up late marks on the register unnecessarily.

Please aim to be in the playground and by your child's class door at **8.35am** so that pupils have time to put coats away, visit the toilet, wash hands and settle down to their seats. The class register closes at **8.45am** and class learning starts at **8.45am**. Arriving late means that your child is interrupting the class upon arrival as well as missing essential English and Maths learning.



Letters have been sent out to some parents where punctuality has been a problem in the last few weeks and thankfully, we have started to see some improvements. Thank you to those parents for their efforts improving their morning routines. If you have difficulty getting your child to school for **8.35am**, please speak to the School Office. Your child could attend the Noodle exercise group, which starts at **8.15am**, which is free of charge. Also, Breakfast Club is available from 7.45am - £1 per child per day or free for FSM. To reserve a place, please make enquiries at the School Office.

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. So far this year, 43 pupils have gone or about to go on leave, which is two thirds of the number of total number pupils that took leave in 2019/2022.



I'm sorry to say that only parents of 30 pupils have completed the required **Request for Leave of Absence Form** which is the process by which parents should follow as well as meeting with Mrs Holgate prior to departure. 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. As a result, 27 fines have been issued and unfortunately, 606 learning days have been lost so far, which is 121 school weeks and over 3 school years of time. 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 leave in term time also puts your child's school place at risk at a time when 270 children in East Lancashire are not enrolled in a school and are waiting for a school place.

Attendance Achievements

So far this year, we have 119 pupils with 100% attendance which is fantastic and represents 26% of the school. 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. This means that classes Woodpeckers, Puffins and Swans have achieved 100% in their classes so far this term receiving a class treat.



Thank you to all those parents do get it right daily and thank you to those parents who are willing work together improvements to attendance and punctuality. In the words of the children –

“Teamwork makes the dream work”.

Please help us make your children’s dreams come true by being able to provide them a full education.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L. Rawcliffe
Attendance Manager