



School Attendance Matters (SAM) Newsletter

Spring 2 - March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

For the first time in many years, the start of Ramadan, Lent and Chinese New Year all aligned in February. As the celebration of Eid approaches, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to all families observing this special occasion. We hope you enjoy a joyful and peaceful celebration with your loved ones. For those pupils observing Lent and celebrating Easter, we wish you a very Happy Easter. We also hope that the families who celebrated Chinese New Year had a wonderful and joyful time with family and friends.

Mrs Rawcliffe—Attendance Lead

Eid

In recognition of this important religious festival, the school will authorise one day for religious observance in line with the date confirmed by your Islamic body. If your child will be absent for Eid, please inform the school by **completing the electronic form** that follows later this week.

School will remain open for all pupils that will not be observing Eid and for those pupils who would still like to still attend school.

Any extra days taken for Eid celebrations will be marked as unauthorised.



Leave in Term Time

- Please check the UK government's travel advice before you book your holidays <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>.
- If your travel plans change which then forces you to extend your trip while abroad, school will still mark leave in term time as unauthorised. Therefore, you may incur a fine or be asked to attend court.
- To date, 63 pupil have taken Leave in Term Time and 516 school days have been lost.
- So far, 31 fines have been issued by LCC and parents of some pupils will be attending court.



Attendance - September to March

- School attendance this half term as been exceptional, with the average being 97.20% since 23rd February.
- This is above our school target of 96%. The school attendance since September is 95.45%. Please keep up the hard work. Please ask pupils to attend school every day that they can.



Punctuality - September to March

There's a 5.6% decrease, in the number of pupils that have been late this year. However, the biggest improvement is in the number of late marks. There's a 24.86% drop in late marks this year compared to last year. If your family needs help in getting your child to school on time, please speak to Mrs. Rawcliffe or Mr Dowling.

