

The Willows

Greatbatch Avenue, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7JY



Primary School

Explore - Dream - Discover

Web: www.willowsprimary.com

Email: office@willowsprimary.com

Tel: (01782) 233280 Fax: (01782) 233282

Head Teacher: Mrs S Thursfield

Deputy Head: Mrs C Beltran

Assistant Head: Mrs A Ball

Attendance Newsletter – Autumn 2024

Our School Attendance target is 97%



Welcome

Welcome to the first attendance newsletter of the year; the aim is to promote the importance of attendance across The Willows Primary School community and get everyone involved to help children attend on time, every day. It is really important that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance at school so they can enjoy their learning and socialising with their peers. Our curriculum is challenging and designed to be fast paced - every day really does count towards a child's progress.

We are currently reviewing the first four weeks of the school registers and parents will be informed if their child has missed 3 or more days so far this term. This letter can be concerning for parents, as even a short absence so early in the year can appear to have a big impact.

In a change to how attendance has previously been reported we will share the number of days a child has missed rather than a percentage. A test score of 90% sounds really quite good and it's easy to think that 90% attendance is also a good achievement – in reality this would be the same as four missed weeks of school by the end of the year which isn't far off a typical half term. By putting it in terms of days missed we hope this is clearer for parents and better illustrates the time and progress which has been missed.

Please also take time to review the start and end times of the school day. We have seen a number of children arriving late on a regular basis – this may mean that every day they miss their spelling practice or the Daily 5 for example. This often can't be revisited during class time and children may have to make up missed time during their break or lunch just to keep up with their work.

To Report Absence

Please inform the School Office before 9.30am by either;

- Calling 01782 233280, Option 1 to leave a message



The Willows

Greatbatch Avenue, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7JY



Primary School

Explore - Dream - Discover

Web: www.willowsprimary.com

Email: office@willowsprimary.com

Tel: (01782) 233280 Fax: (01782) 233282

Head Teacher: Mrs S Thursfield

Deputy Head: Mrs C Beltran

Assistant Head: Mrs A Ball

- Message the Office via Class Dojo. **Please don't just message the teacher in case they aren't able to pass the message to us**
- Email attendance@willowsprimary.com

Remember that children do not always have to miss school if they are unwell. There is advice on <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> and often we are able to support children in school when they only have minor childhood illness. Parents can send medicine from home and of course we can get in touch if a child becomes unwell during the day.

Our school target and progress

You will see our attendance target is 97% this year – last year we ended on 95% which shows we are right to continue to focus on attendance. After five weeks we currently stand at a whole school average of 96.7% so are making good progress already!

Working Together

We will be working with families to keep you updated on your child's attendance by sending out letters at key points and you may be invited into school to discuss ways we can help support attendance.

There have been lots of changes around attendance this year so we now have a dedicated area on the school website to help answer any questions you may have. In particular there is now new guidance for Leave of Absence during term time and changes to penalties for unauthorised absence so full details on these can be found there as well as the school Attendance Policy.

Please note that leave can only be authorised in the most exceptional of circumstances and it is recommended that a form is submitted to the school office as far in advance as possible.

Finally.....

My role is to help support families as much as possible in order to close gaps and remove barriers to attendance and I am always approachable if you need help. If you have any questions or have any concerns about attendance please drop into the School Office or email me at arudge@willowsprimary.com.

Kind Regards

Mrs Rudge

