

# The Willows

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



## Primary School

Explore - Dream - Discover

Web: [www.willowsprimary.com](http://www.willowsprimary.com)

Email: [office@willowsprimary.com](mailto: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 – Spring 2025

### Our School Attendance target is 97%



#### Welcome

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,

Welcome to the Spring edition of our Attendance Newsletter! As we continue into 2025, we want to keep you informed about the importance of good attendance and the impact it has on academic success. Our shared commitment to promoting your child's regular attendance plays a crucial role in their learning and overall growth.

#### Why Attendance Matters

Did you know that students who attend school regularly are more likely to succeed academically? Consistent attendance helps students stay on track with their learning, build stronger relationships with peers and teachers, and develop important life skills such as responsibility and time management.

When students miss school, they miss out on valuable learning opportunities. Even if a student misses just a few days each month, those absences add up and can make it difficult for them to catch up with classwork.

#### Attendance Tips for Parents

- **Create a Routine:** Establish a consistent bedtime and morning routine to ensure your child wakes up on time and feels energized for school.
- **Plan Ahead:** Schedule medical appointments and family vacations during breaks to minimize school absences.
- **Stay in Communication:** If your child is unable to attend school due to illness or other reasons, please notify the school as soon as possible.

#### To Report Absence

Please inform the School Office before 9.30am by either;



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- Calling 01782 233280, Option 1 to leave a message
- 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](mailto: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 are happy to get in touch if a child becomes unwell during the day. Some children may have more complex or long-term conditions and we are happy to meet and discuss how best to accommodate these in school to allow them to access as much of their education as possible.

### Important Dates

- **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025:** Half Term
- **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025:** In-service Training - **School Closed to Pupils**
- **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 :** School Re-opens to Pupils
- **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 :** Easter Holidays

### Our school target and progress

We want every child at The Willows to have the very best opportunity to succeed so have set our school target at 97% - above the national average for Primary Schools. We currently have a whole school attendance of 95.8% - this is typical as winter germs circulate! If you would like an update on your child or children's personal attendance please drop into the school office or message on Class Dojo.

### Working Together

We will continue 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 – we have regular attendance clinics with myself and Mrs Clarkson, our Education Welfare Officer from Stoke-on-Trent City Council, who has a wealth of experience supporting children and families.

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](mailto:arudge@willowsprimary.com).

Kind Regards

Mrs Rudge

