



'Creating New Futures'

Newlands Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr D.Bailey



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Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to remind you of the benefits and importance of school attendance. It is your responsibility as a parent or carer to ensure you child can access their education and as a school we will support you to achieve this.

Missing school means missing out on so many things such as being with friends, experiencing new activities and learning new skills as well as impacting on a young person's future prospects.

We all know that pupils that attend regularly achieve better results than those that don't. At Newlands we celebrated fantastic KS2 results last year - 80% of pupils achieved the expected standard for Reading, Writing and Maths. Attendance played a huge part as the table below shows:

Attendance	Achieved standard for Reading, Writing and Maths
Below 90% (Persistent Absence)	67%
Between 90 - 96%	78%
Above 96% (Previous National Attendance Target)	92%



There are very few reasons why a pupil should not be in school and it is **essential** that you, as parents or carers, play your part.

- **Children do not need to stay off school if they have mild health problems such as a cold or a headache. If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, bring them anyway. They often perk up once at school, but we will contact you if they don't.**
- **Children do not need a 48-hour recuperation time if they have been sick. Every child is different and may be well enough to return to school the next day.**
- **Attendance that drops below 95.9% will be monitored and the school, along with the Local Authority, may contact you to review periods of absence.**
- **90% attendance is equal to missing 19 days in a school year.**
- **Being late by 15 minutes every day means missing two weeks of learning in a year.**

If your child is absent from school please call Mrs Ball, the Attendance Officer, as soon as possible on 01843 593086 and press 1 for Attendance. If she is already speaking to a parent the answer machine will invite you to leave a message quoting your name, your child's name, their class and the reason for their absence.

If your child is absent from school and you do not contact Mrs Ball, she will call you. If she is unable to speak to you or does not receive a reply to her message left on your phone, she will send an absence letter for you to complete and return on the day of your child's return to school. It is important that you complete and return the letters so that we can establish an accurate picture of your child's attendance. If you do not return the letter, their absence could be marked as unauthorised.

The school also liaises with the School Attendance Officer at Kent County Council and can hold School Attendance Meetings in school to discuss your child's attendance. The issuing of Penalty Notices and the potential for fines are a last resort and we ask that you work with us by responding to messages, texts and letters to avoid such a situation.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Bailey
Headteacher