



'Creating New Futures'

Newlands Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr D.Bailey

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent or Carer,

**School Attendance Matters and should be everybody's concern.**

*Attendance at school is more critical now than ever!*

*There has been an unavoidable loss of learning through the closure of schools during the pandemic and now we need to recover and encourage all our young people that learning is more important now than ever and 100% attendance in school is so important for every child's future opportunities. Government research says that pupils attending for more than 95% of the year achieve at least one grade higher than those that don't. At Newlands - we can see a clear link between attendance and achievement. We are celebrating yet another year of fantastic KS2 results - 73% of pupils achieved the expected standard for Reading, Writing and Maths, compared to the National Rate of 59%.*

*Attendance played a huge part as the table below shows:*

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Achieved standard for Reading, Writing and Maths</b>
<b>Below 90% (Persistent Absence)</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>Between 90 - 96%</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>Above 96% (Previous National Attendance Target)</b>	<b>86%</b>

*We also know how important school attendance is for a child's social and emotional well-being.*



**Recent guidance from the Department of Education has asked schools to increase the length of the school day in the near future in order to promote attainment and Newlands will be looking into the changes required very soon.**

*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 in ensuring your child is in school on time every day.*

*Some key facts to think about:*

- *Attendance that drops below 95% will be monitored closely and you will now be informed of this via a text message.*
- *90% is **NOT** good. It is equal to missing 19 days in a school year. Over 11 years of education, this is equal to missing one whole year of school.*
- *Being late by 15 minutes or being collected 15 minutes early every day means missing two weeks of learning in a year.*
- *Children do not need to stay off school if they have mild health problems such as conjunctivitis, a cold or headache.*
- *Medical appointments should be taken outside of the school day or during holidays wherever possible.*
- *More information is available on our website: <http://www.newlands-tkat.org>*

*I am sure you can see the benefits of making sure your child doesn't miss out and helping your child to attend school every day. **Every minute in school is important. Therefore, from today children will not be allowed to leave school before the end of school unless they have a medical appointment, which must be evidenced, or if they are unwell and the school has called you and asked that they be collected. If you wish to collect them early for any other reason a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be consulted.***

*Thank you for **your** continued support with this.*

*Yours sincerely*



**Mr D Bailey**

**Head Teacher**