

Barham Attendance Newsletter



January 2024

Happy New Year 2024 to all our Barham families!

Welcome back to the Spring Term!

"THIS MORNING, HE HAD A RUNNY NOSE... BUT LOOK AT HIM NOW!"

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

HM Government
Head to the NHS website to find out more.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Well done to all the children who are in the **Green Band** with an attendance of **97% and above.**

For those below 97%, make sure that children are in school every day on time and they will soon find themselves back in the Green Band too.

Look out for your child's attendance report next month. We are looking forward to see attendance go up and cannot wait to find out which classes will win a non-uniform day this half term!

Improving school attendance is everyone's business and, to tackle the challenge we face, we need to work together.

*From **8th January**, Government is launching a national campaign to remind parents and carers of the importance of school attendance. (DfE)*

Illness and School Attendance

Attendance at school is vital if pupils are to reach their full potential. Too often, children stay at home when they have a minor illness and they miss out on learning and social experiences.

If your child is very ill, it is important that you seek medical advice – either through your GP, Minor Illness Nurse, Pharmacist or by contacting NHS Direct on 111.

If your child has a minor illness, often they can manage in school and actually feel better being in school, learning with their friends. Please remember that we have lots of qualified First Aiders in school and a fully-staffed Welfare Room where your child can go if they feel unwell during the day.

If your child is unwell during the day, a First Aider will contact you and discuss with you if they need to go home, or, if you should come in to administer some medication to help relieve their symptoms (for example, Calpol or Ibuprofen).

Our staff are also trained to be able to administer medications which have been prescribed by a Doctor. If you need us to support with the administration of medications during the day, please pop into the Welfare Room to see a member of staff.

Remember, if your child is unwell in the morning, they can always come into school later, or after lunch if they feel better.

This newsletter is designed to give you some information about managing minor complaints and will help you to decide if your child can come to school.

We know that children are sometimes too ill to come to school. To help you to decide if your child is too ill to attend, ask yourself these questions:

- 1. Is your child well enough to go out and play?**
- 2. Is your child well enough to carry out their normal daily school activities?** *If you answered **No**, then we would advise you to seek medical advice.*
- 3. Does your child have a condition that can be passed on to other children?**
- 4. Would you take a day off work if you had the same symptoms or condition?** *If you answers **Yes**, then we would advise you to seek medical advice.*

Reminder- Attendance expectations at Barham Primary School

What YOU must do:

- Telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, try sending them in as they often perk up on arrival.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

“I don’t feel well...”

If your child has:

- Headache
- Earache
- Stomachache
- Cough
- Cold
- Sore Throat
- Period Pain

Try giving your child over-the-counter medication in the morning (for example Calpol or Ibuprofen). If their symptoms improve, bring them into school and we can monitor them during the day and call you if necessary.

Common Conditions:

Colds & Flu

If your child has a cough, cold or sore throat, they can be sent to school. If your child has a high temperature, you could provide paracetamol or equivalent, and plenty to drink. If your child feels better after that, bring them into school.

If your child’s high temperature continues for 3 days or more, seek medical advice. If your child is asthmatic, remember that they may need their blue inhaler more often.

If your child has flu (diagnosed by a GP), they should stay home and return to school when they are recovered.

Sickness / Diarrhoea

Is the sickness a one-off? Perhaps due to worry or eating something bad? If so, then it may not be necessary to keep them off school. Please call the school office to discuss.

Is the sickness a diarrhoea/vomiting bug? If so, then pupils must stay off school for 48 hours following the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea. If symptoms persist for 3 or more days, seek medical advice.

Chickenpox

Pupils must stay off school until the spots have all crusted over (usually 5 days). If your child has Chickenpox, please make sure the school office is aware so that they can notify any pregnant staff.

Scarlet Fever

Children can return to school 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.

Headlice

Pupils can return to school as soon as their hair has been treated, to prevent further spreading. Please notify the school office if your child has nits, so that a text can be sent out to other parents.

Impetigo

Children can return to school 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment or once the lesions are crusted over.

For more information, visit the following link to the NHS ‘Is my child too ill for school’ guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> and the Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty’s letter on mild illness and school attendance that says a prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child’s anxiety about attending school in the future <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-school-leaders-on-mild-illness-and-school-attendance> .

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The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.

But attendance is important for more than just attainment:

Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing