

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a school we are continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality and our whole school target for attendance is 97% for this academic year. THANK YOU to all of the parents and carers who have been working hard to get these important habits established early on. We really do appreciate that you tackle the school run come rain or shine, often with young families, to get to school for 8:40 so that children may begin learning on time. Punctual arrival at school also minimises the impacts upon other children's learning as lessons can begin promptly at 9am without being disturbed by late comers. There are also very clear links between attendance and achievement and therefore it is very important that your child attends school every day unless there are exceptional circumstances. We work closely in partnership with our parents and carers and we will contact you if your child's attendance percentage drops to below 94%. This is to ensure you are aware of this but also to offer any help and support we may be able to give in order to raise your child's attendance in school. You may also be invited to a meeting in order to discuss this further and to put a plan of support in place.



Why is good attendance and punctuality important?

Education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Regular and punctual attendance at school is key to both academic and social development, which in turn will improve the life chances of children and young people.

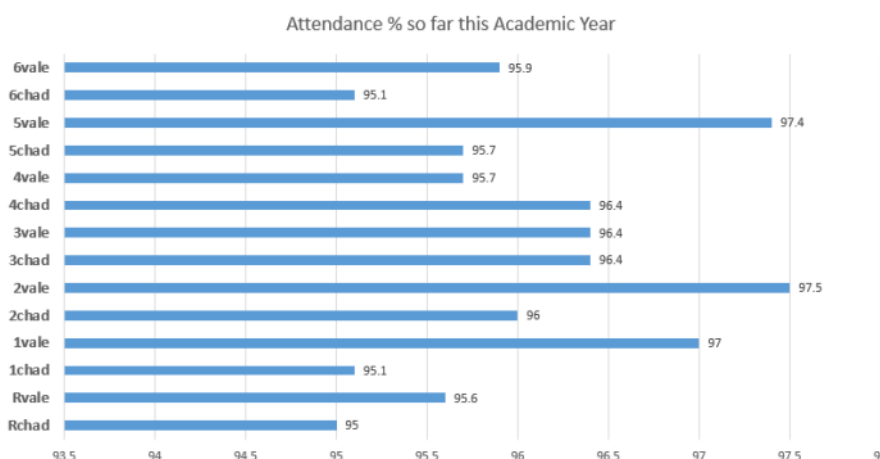
What does 90% attendance mean?

90% attendance = ½ school day missed every week! One school year at 90% attendance = 4 weeks of learning missed! Over 5 school years of school = ½ school year missed! **All children and young people nationally whose school attendance is 90% or below are considered by the government to be persistent absentees.**

Family Holidays and Leave in Term Time

Family holidays and visits abroad should be arranged outside of school term time as we are unable to authorise holiday leave from school. Should you need to request leave for your child you must first fill in a leave of absence request form which can be obtained from the school office. All requests for authorised absence will receive a written response and unfortunately will only be authorised in the most extreme circumstances. If permission is not granted, but the child is still absent, the absence is classed as unauthorised and parents or carers may be issued with a penalty notice. Unfortunately, there have been instances of penalty notices being issued for Chad Vale parents during this academic year for taking leave in term time. Although this process is not one that we use readily, it is a procedure we must follow as a Birmingham Local Authority school.

ATTENDANCE THIS YEAR SO FAR



This term we have awarded 100% attendance award badges to 103 children who have achieved 99% or 100% attendance which is fantastic!

Classes 5 Vale, 2 Vale and 1 Vale have surpassed our 97% attendance target—keep it up everyone.

Our whole school attendance % is currently 96.1%. This time last year it was 96.5%.

Unauthorised absence has increased comparing this year with last year and we have seen an increase in people requesting leave in term time this year which has had impact in a number of areas within school.