

5th September 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we begin the new academic year, I wanted to take a moment to emphasize the importance of regular attendance for your child's success and well-being at school.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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|------------|---|---|
| 95% | = | 47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days |
| 90% | = | 95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day |
| 85% | = | 142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days |
| 80% | = | 190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days |

The Importance of Good Attendance

Regular attendance is a key factor in your child's academic achievement. When pupils attend school consistently, they gain the full benefit of our curriculum and are more likely to reach their full potential. Being present in the classroom allows your child to actively participate in lessons, engage with their peers, and access the support they need to excel. This continuity is crucial for developing strong study habits, building confidence, and achieving academic success.

Rewarding Good Attendance

As some of you will already know, we have promised to ramp up the level of reward to children who consistently attend this year, starting with 10 tickets to see England (men's) football team play at Wembley Stadium on Tuesday 10th September 2024.

Our Attendance League commences on Monday 9th September 2024, with amazing prize experiences for the eventual 'Champions League' winners!

We will also be holding regular raffles/prize draws for children with 100% attendance with many exciting prizes selected by our school leadership team.

Principal: Miss L Taylor

Absence = lost learning



Learning is like a puzzle, with many different pieces.

Every lesson attended, is like getting another piece of the puzzle.

Every lesson missed, is a puzzle piece lost. It is a piece that children can never get back.

Here (left) we see a jigsaw which has 98% of its pieces.

Even with the missing piece, we can use the other puzzle pieces around the missing piece to fill the gaps.

Imagine this is a pupil with 98% attendance (3 days off in an academic year). It's not perfect, but the child still has a reasonable chance of working out what is going on.



Attendance is everyone's responsibility.
Missing pieces = missing knowledge and skills



The Consequences of Poor Attendance

Frequent absences can create significant gaps in your child's learning. Missing classes means missing out on important lessons, which can lead to difficulties in understanding new material. Over time, this can result in lower grades and reduced self-confidence.

Additionally, poor attendance can make it harder for your child to keep up with their classmates, leading to feelings of frustration and disengagement from school.

Furthermore, consistent attendance is not only important for academic reasons but also for social development. School is where your child builds friendships, learns teamwork, and develops essential life skills. These experiences are just as important as academic success and are best cultivated through regular school attendance.

Absence = lost learning



Now think about a child who is absent from school more often.

This pupil has a lot more pieces missing and now it is impossible to see the bigger picture.

No teacher or tutor in the country would be able to fill in all of these gaps!

Unfortunately, children who are off more sporadically or more often may be missing even more puzzle pieces and with even fewer managing to stick together.



Attendance is everyone's responsibility.
Pupils will never regain the learning they lose whilst absent.



Managing Poor Attendance

We believe in a support-first approach to attendance and – where appropriate – will provide a range of supportive measures should a pupil's attendance fall below 95%, including:

- An Attendance Intervention
- A meeting with Academy Staff to sign an Attendance Pledge
- A meeting with an Attendance Officer to sign an Attendance Contract
- A meeting with the Assistant Principal
- A meeting with the Vice Principal and referral to Warwickshire Attendance Service

95% may seem like a decent attendance level, but this would equate to 235 missed lessons across their time at Hartshill and would significantly decrease their chances of achieving the very best out of their time at the Academy.

Where support is not successful or is not engaged with, we may need to make an appropriate referral to the Local Authority, who have the power to issue penalty notices (fines) and other sanctions including Parenting Orders.

Working Together for Your Child's Success

We understand that sometimes absences are unavoidable due to serious illness or family emergencies. In such cases, please ensure that the school is informed promptly, by speaking to a member of our Attendance Team. We are committed to working with you to support your child's learning during these times. However, we encourage you to make every effort to ensure your child attends school regularly, as this is the foundation for a successful and fulfilling education.

We expect:

- Children always attend school, even if they feel unwell. We have trained staff who will help get them through the day.
- Attend hospital and dental appointments after school/in the school holidays.
- Attend school before and/or after any medical appointment.
- Parents to always inform us of any absence and accept that we will want to speak to you about this.
- Holidays are taken during the 170 non-school days there are in a year. Where holidays are taken during Term Time, fixed penalty notices will be issued at a rate of £60 per parent, per child.
- If your child will not be attending, you must contact the academy **each day** they will be absent
- We need to **speak** to a responsible adult, so you will receive a call if you text, email or leave a voicemail
- If children are too ill to attend school, the expectation is they remain at home and are available to be seen by staff should a home visit be required

We recognise that there are times when attending school may be challenging, but we have to consider that a full-time education is every child's legal right and as adults we have to be the ones who are responsible for ensuring they receive this.

Thank you for your continued support in making education a priority for your child. Together, we can help them achieve their best.

Should you have any questions or need assistance regarding your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us on 02476 392247.

Attendance Contacts:

- Samantha Underwood (Attendance Pastoral Leader): Samantha.underwood@hartshillacademy.org.uk
- Michael Hughes (Attendance Pastoral Leader): Michael.hughes@hartshillacademy.org.uk
- Joshua Craig (Assistant Principal): Joshua.craig@hartshillacademy.org.uk
- Richard Christon (Vice Principal): Richard.christon@hartshillacademy.org.uk

We are here to help and support you in any way we can.

Warm regards,

Richard Christon
Vice Principal
Hartshill Academy