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Dear Parents/Carers

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS REGARDING THE PERSISTENT ABSENCE THRESHOLD

From 1 September 2015, the Government reduced the persistent absence threshold from 15% to 10%. This will now class a pupil with attendance below 90% as a persistent absentee compared with the previous figure of 85%, regardless of whether the school has authorised or unauthorised the absence. This equates to 38 sessions or 19 days of absence across the year. Below is a table indicating the levels of absence which will equate to your child becoming a Persistent Absentee:

<u>Terms</u>	<u>PA at 10% September 2015 (<90% attendance)</u>
Half term 1	7+ sessions (3.5 days)
Half term 1 & 2 (Autumn term)	14+ sessions (7 days)
Half term 1-3	20+ sessions (10 days)
Half term 1-4 (Autumn and Spring term)	25+ sessions 12.5 days)
Half term 1-5	31+ sessions (15.5 days)
Half term 1-6 (full academic year)	38+ sessions (19 days)

Schools are no longer judged solely on their overall attendance figures but also on the number of students who fall into the persistent absence category.

Regular attendance at school is essential to ensure uninterrupted progress and to enable children to fulfil their potential. The attendance pattern for all children is monitored regularly with the school seeking to work actively with parents to ensure that regular attendance is maintained.

Minor ailments, such as a slight cold or in cases where your child may have been sick due to coughing or over indulgence, are not acceptable reasons for failing to attend school. Where, however, sickness and/or diarrhoea may be due to a bug, then we would ask that a child be kept away from school for 48 hours to avoid spreading the symptoms.

Continued overleaf

Repeated absences may require the school to request that you obtain medical evidence from your doctor's surgery or local pharmacy as recommended by the Government.

The Department for Education has published data on their website that clearly shows the link between attendance and attainment. This highlights the fact that there will be an impact on your child's education and exam results if their attendance is not consistently above 95% throughout their schooling.

I have been asked to remind you that the current law does not give any entitlement to parents to remove their child from school during term-time for the purpose of a holiday. Head teachers may only grant leave of absence where an application has been made in advance and consider that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

For those children whose attendance is below 90%, we will be monitoring their attendance patterns and we will notify you if your child falls into this category.

We are confident that you will be keen to work with us to ensure that your child meets the new threshold requirements since it is clear that this will have a positive effect on their learning.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Griffiths

Head Teacher