

26 April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance

Ark Victoria Primary seeks to ensure that all its pupils receive a full-time education which maximises opportunities for each pupil to realise his/her true potential. The school will strive to provide a welcoming and caring environment, whereby each member of the school community feels wanted and secure. All school staff will work with pupils and their families to ensure each pupil attends school regularly and punctually.

Ark Victoria School is working in partnership with parents, education welfare officers, and Birmingham City Council to encourage children back into school following almost two years of disruption for parents, children, and schools. The Government (DfE) are clear in their message that it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education, wellbeing, and wider development. We know that children have missed out on being with their friends and the wider social aspects of school. Missing further time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind.

The data clearly evidences that those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school, and indeed in future life options. As parents are aware, school attendance is again compulsory. This means that (unless parents are formally notified of new lockdown arrangements where schools are closed or a child is required to self-isolate), the usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- The parents' duty to send their child/children to school regularly where they are of compulsory school age
- The school's responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence
- The option for local authorities to again consider the use of legal sanctions, including penalty notices and prosecution in court.

If you are worried about your child/children's school attendance, the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with the school directly. The school has specialist staff who may be able to support, and all schools work closely with mental health, children's services, and local authority teams who may also be able to help.

Please note that, given the disruption to children's education caused by the pandemic, requests for leave during term time are unlikely to be authorised by the Principal. Family emergencies also need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate, or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Following unprecedented levels of disruption to children's education over the past two years the most important thing is that the school and parents work together to get children back into school.

Our specialist education welfare officers will liaise between home and school to address any issues that may impact on a student's attendance at school. This can take the form of telephone contact, a home visit or a meeting in school.

The education welfare officer will also liaise with the education legal intervention team at Birmingham City Council if a student's absence is deemed excessive or unauthorised.

Attendance figures have fallen recently in the school. Please see the table below, which shows the number of days missing from school, linked to attendance percentage.



Attendance Ladder



What is expected of pupils?

- To respect themselves and others
- To do all they can to attend school regularly and punctually
- To inform a trusted adult if they feel that they are being bullied
- To encourage friendship and a sense of belonging
- To be happy and encourage others to feel happy

What is expected of Parents?

- To keep requests for their child to be absent to a minimum
- To offer a reason, or medical proof, for any period of absence, preferably before the absence or on the first day of absence
- To ensure that their child arrives at school on time, a reason should be offered for any lateness
- To work closely with the school to resolve any problems that may impede a child's attendance
- To take family holidays during school holiday periods and be aware that requests for holidays during term time will be refused except in special/exceptional circumstances.
- To be aware of curriculum requirements and be especially vigilant with regards to attendance during important academic times such as SATS
- To support their child and recognise their successes and achievements

The school has introduced a new system of incentives and rewards that acknowledges the efforts of pupils to improve their attendance. This has been shared with the children this week.



Weekly 	Best Attendance in Year Groups 	Best attendance Certificate and trophy for Year 3,4,5 and 6 Teddy Bear/Animal cuddly for Reception, 1 and 2
Monthly 	Highest Class attendance in school	Certificate and Golden Room 
Half Termly 	Highest Class attendance in KS1	Certificate and Movie Afternoon
	Highest Class attendance in KS2	Certificate and Movie Afternoon 
Termly 	100% Attendance	Certificate and attendance badge/stationery
Yearly 	100% Attendance	Letter home, Gold Certificate and Trip
	99% Attendance	Silver Certificate
	98% Attendance	Bronze Certificate 

Attendance Rewards







We would like our children to have a positive experience of school and to be able to reach their full potential. For them to achieve this it is important that they attend school regularly. We hope that you will continue to support us with attendance by ensuring that your child is in school every day and on time. If you would like to discuss attendance directly with me, please do not hesitate to contact myself via the school office.

Thank you for your ongoing support with raising our attendance at Ark Victoria Primary.

Kind Regards

K Kumar
 Mrs Kumar, Pastoral Lead