

Attendance Matters

Issue 20 – Autumn Term 2019

What is Attendance Matters?

Attendance Matters is a termly newsletter which is sent out to families of children who attend schools within the Wisbech Schools' Partnership. The newsletter will keep families updated on the latest attendance information and news.



Term Dates

Autumn Term 2019

Weds 4 Sep to Weds 18 Dec

Half term:

Mon 21 Oct to Fri 25 Oct

Christmas Holiday 2019/20

Thur 19 Dec to Sun 5 Jan 2020

Spring term 2020

Mon 6 Jan to Weds 1 April

Half term:

Mon 17 Feb to Fri 21 Feb

Easter holiday 2020

Thurs 2 Apr to Fri 17 Apr

Summer term 2020

Mon 20 Apr to Tues 21 July

Half term:

Mon 25 May to Fri 29 May

Summer holiday 2020

Wed 22 July to Mon 7 Sept



Attendance Rewards



Congratulations to the 5 prize winners from St Peters, Leverington, Orchards, Friday Bridge and Wisbech St Mary schools who each received family bowling vouchers from Play2Day. They all had 100% attendance, with no lates, throughout the Summer Term. PLUS a pupil from Murrow who had 100% attendance for the whole year won a bicycle!



At the end of the 2019 Autumn Term, 5 more pupils who achieve 100% attendance with no lates throughout the term will receive a prize
PLUS one pupil with 100% attendance and no lates during the 2019/20 academic year will receive a grand prize!

Please note -

Academies and some schools are able to set different dates. Schools have 5 training days available to take at their discretion. Please contact your school for details.

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Unauthorised Leave

Children of school age who are registered at a school must, by law, attend that school regularly. Regular attendance is the best way of ensuring that a child makes the most of the educational opportunities which are available to him/her.

When a child is absent from school, he/she misses not only the teaching provided but is also less prepared for the lessons after his or her return.

There are only 190 statutory school days in one year and 175 days (weekends and school holidays) available to use for holidays/leave. Therefore every school day counts!

Regulations make it clear that parents do not have any right or entitlement to take a child out of school for the purposes of term time holiday/leave.

If parents take their child away in term time this will be counted as unauthorised absence - this is the same as truancy and you may be at risk of a penalty notice being applied.



Well done to more pupils above who achieved 100% attendance 😊

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Exclusions

If your child has been excluded from school they **must stay at home during school hours and not be in a public place.**

If they are seen out during school hours Penalty Notices will be issued.

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Penalty Notices

- **The Penalty Notice fine is £60 per parent per child which rises to £120 if not paid within 21 days. If not paid after 28 days you may be prosecuted**
- Parents in the Cambs. area have been given a four week suspended sentence for taking their child out of school during term time for the third time. They must complete 20 days of RAR (Rehabilitation Activity Requirement) and must also pay court costs of £165 each. The parents were warned that if they took their child on another term time holiday, the suspended prison sentence was likely to be activated and they would be jailed for 4 weeks.
- Penalty Notices issued in the last academic year – 44 for Attendance and 434 for term time holiday.
- There were 138 Open Court prosecutions plus 18 Single Justice Procedures.

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Home Visits

Home visits may be undertaken if your school suspects the family is on holiday, and could result in your child being reported as Missing in Education

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Average Attendance

The average attendance for children in primary schools in the Wisbech Schools' Partnership for - Summer term 2019

95.5%

The national expectation for each child's school attendance is 100%

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