



THE BLUE SKY FEDERATION



Attendance Matters! May 2025

Spring Term Attendance Celebration

I was delighted to write out so many attendance certificates for the Spring term.

44 children at Summerfield achieved 100% attendance for the first two terms with a massive 186 children being awarded a certificate for attendance over 96% (this is an improvement on the Autumn term).

At Heelands, 2 children achieved 100% attendance (since September) and 23 children had attendance of 96% and above.

Mrs Stuart (Attendance & Behaviour Lead)

Summerfield attendance up to 16th May was 94.7%.

Squirrels— 81.4%

Butterflies—93%

Bees—92.5%

Ants— 96.3%

Fireflies— 96.1%

Penguins— 97.1%

Polar bears— 94.9%

Lions— 94.7%

Tigers— 93.8%

Badgers— 94.8%

Otters— 95.3%

Eagles— 94.8%

Owls—95.8%

Sharks— 94.7%

Dolphins— 95.7%

Well done, Penguins and Fireflies!

Heelands attendance up to 16th May was 93.65%

Ash— 93.25%

Maple— 93.6%

Oak— 93.96%

This is an improvement, keep it up!

Spotlight on Request for Leave

Headteachers and Executive Headteachers are not allowed to authorise leave of absence for holidays. We are increasingly getting requests for extended leave for poorly relatives and deaths abroad. We will not be authorising extended leave for such reasons going forward. There is an expectation that the 14 weeks of holiday a year should be used to travel abroad.

Whilst we appreciate there are often emergencies, when a relative falls ill, for example, this should not then be the beginning of an extended period of time away from school. You can expect to be fined. Please be aware that both parents are fined for each child.

If you do need to take your child out of school in an emergency, please be prepared to demonstrate when flights were bought. Also expect to be asked for evidence of significant illness of a relative or death. Whilst it sounds harsh to request evidence for this, we will be asked to provide it should it be queried if an absence is authorised.

Finally, taking children abroad for a medical appointment is happening more frequently. It is expected that these appointments should happen during the holidays, and so, will not be authorised.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office before booking flights to find out if the leave will be authorised or not.

What can parents and children do to improve attendance?

- Go on holiday during the 14 weeks allocated a year, **NOT** during term time.
- If a child wakes up feeling a bit under the weather, send them in. We **WILL** send them home if they're not well enough to attend. Children should be really poorly to miss school. They should **NOT** be kept off because they have a runny nose, sore throat or intermittent cough.
- A temperature is considered anything higher than 37.7°C. Try giving your child some Calpol to see if this brings their temperature down. Thermometers in school can check if their temperature rises again.
- Arrange haircuts, doctors appointments, dentist appointments, shopping trips and special trips either after school, at weekends or during holidays.
- Come and talk to the attendance team (Mrs Stuart, Mrs Carey- Summerfield, Mrs Farmer-Heelands) or your child's class teacher if you need support getting your child into school everyday, on time.

Percentage attendance	Days absent a year	Impact on child's success at school	Future potential
100% excellent	None	Pupils with these levels of attendance should achieve their full potential and have a really good start in life.	Very good chance of 5 or more pass grades at GCSE
96% good	6 days – 12 sessions		
95%	10 days – 20 sessions	Pupils with this attendance are likely to achieve their targets but will have to work harder to get there.	75% chance of 5 x pass grades at GCSE
90% unsatisfactory	19 days absent – 38 sessions	Pupils at 90% have missed almost a whole month of school and are in real danger of falling behind in Maths and English. They will have a lot to catch up on and it will be difficult for them to achieve their best.	50% chance of 5 x pass grades at GCSE.
Below 90% poor	Between 4 and 6 weeks missed.	Deemed 'persistent absence' and must be reported to the authority.	
85% serious concern	29 days – 58 sessions – equivalent to 6 weeks or a whole half term.	This time cannot be made up and pupils will find it very difficult to achieve the best that they could.	Less than 30% chance of 1 – 5 pass grades at GCSE

The equivalent of 1 week a term for a child's school life equates to 1 whole year of schooling missed – this can never be regained and limits a child's potential for success

We understand that some children have on-going medical conditions requiring regular hospital appointments. These will, obviously, always be authorised. Please ensure the school is informed about medical conditions that may regularly affect attendance.