



9th November 2023

GREENHEART

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to take the opportunity to send a reminder about our attendance expectations and our policies and procedures in relation to student absence and punctuality.

Attendance at school is important and research shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve well, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances. At Featherstone Academy we encourage all pupils to strive for 100% attendance; every day and every lesson counts.

Punctuality is also important. **Punctuality is a life skill.** Good school attendance includes being there on time. The habit of good punctuality at school will help your child throughout their education and into adult life and the work place. 5 minutes late each day = 3 days lost over a year 10 minutes late each day=6.5 days lost over a year. Phonics and reading lessons start at 8:50am every morning.

Requests for leave during term-time have a negative impact on whole school attendance. Our current attendance is 94.84%, which is well below local and national average. Without term-time requests for leave our attendance would be 97%, which would put us in the top bracket of the country.

Our aim is to work with parents to ensure that all our pupils receive the most from their education and reach their full potential. This letter is to remind all parents/carers regarding the law that requires them to ensure that their child attends school. All schools in the country must follow Department for Education guidance regarding attendance and it clearly states that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must continue to take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment. Dental and medical appointments should be made outside of school hours where possible.

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, for safeguarding purposes, it is imperative that you phone school on 01902 734167 before 9.30am to inform us.

When absence first becomes a concern, Featherstone Academy will send an attendance letter to parents/carers. This is automatically triggered if your child's attendance falls below 90%, regardless of the reason, after the first half-term. If absence continues, we will invite you in for a meeting with the school to put an action plan in place to improve attendance.

If there are any issues preventing attendance, please communicate with us.

I hope we can count on your support in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Gatrad
Headteacher

Featherstone Academy, The Avenue, Featherstone, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV10 7AS
Tel: 01902 734167 Email: information@featherstone.uwmat.co.uk
