



BARWELL CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST MARY'S CHURCH BARWELL

HEADTEACHER: MISS V NEWMAN
BELIEVE ACHIEVE SUCCEED
LEARNING THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Love thy neighbour in a flourishing school community

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year! We're excited to work with you and your child in the months ahead. This is a good time to remind you about our attendance expectations and the changes in law introduced in August 2024.

Why Attendance Matters

Good attendance is essential for your child's progress, helping them develop socially, build friendships, and keep up with learning.

What changed last year?

The government requires schools to be more proactive in monitoring attendance:

- **Penalty Notices** – If your child has 10 or more sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period, the local authority may issue a fine: £80 if paid within 21 days, £160 within 28 days. This includes most term-time holidays of 5 days or more.
- **Absence Reporting** – We must share attendance data with the Department for Education and Leicestershire County Council to identify and address issues early.

Our focus is on supporting families to avoid unnecessary absences. If you have concerns, please speak to us—Jodie is always available to help.

How You Can Help

- **Inform Us Promptly** – If your child is ill or absent for another reason, contact the school office as soon as possible. For ongoing health issues or concerns about attending, talk to us so we can support your child.
- **Avoid Term-Time Holidays** – We can only authorise these in exceptional circumstances, such as a family emergency.
- **Be Punctual** – Arriving on time is important. Late arrivals after registration are marked as late and affect attendance records. Contact us if punctuality is a challenge, we may be able to help.

If Attendance Becomes a Concern

We understand that difficulties can arise. If your child's attendance drops below 90%, we may contact you to discuss how we can support you. Our aim is always to help your child return to school confident, happy and ready to learn.

Working Together

We want every child to have the best possible start to the year. If you have any concerns or questions about attendance, please get in touch. We're here to help and look forward to a fantastic year ahead.

Kind regards,

Lisa Stewart (Deputy Headteacher)



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