

Attendance Matters



"Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world"

Nelson Mandela

At Burton End, we know that good attendance is the key to success at school. We believe our pupils are all capable of amazing things and want them to have every opportunity to achieve this success!

Our dream aim is for all of our children to achieve 100% attendance, but we know this is not always possible. Therefore we would like to aim for every child to achieve at least 96% attendance— no matter their age, ability level or circumstances. Having 96% attendance is the equivalent to missing 9 whole school days a year, so this should be a manageable target.

Going to school every day means:

- ★ lots of opportunities for learning new skills
- ★ developing a better understanding of themselves and the world
- ★ making friends and building lasting relationships
- ★ taking part in exciting activities
- ★ And having lots of fun!

You can help us to help your child by encouraging regular school attendance. Regular attendance helps children to develop their confidence and to make and keep **lasting friendships**.

Key facts:

- ★ Research shows that children with higher attendance at school achieve better both in their exams and in later life.
- ★ A two week holiday in term time, will automatically drop attendance to 95% and can have a severe impact on children who might not find learning easy.
- ★ 90% attendance is the equivalent to one month off every school year. Over the 7 years of primary school, this is the same as missing almost one whole school year!
- ★ Children who have persistently poor attendance can suffer more commonly from friendship issues and find it harder to build lasting relationships.
- ★ You can be fined and prosecuted if your child's attendance becomes a serious issue. You will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) and legal proceedings can and will be taken where necessary.

We aim for... 
100%

Reducing illness:



If your child is saying they do not feel well and you are unsure about whether it warrants a day off please send them to school. If they are truly ill we will ring you. When deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school the NHS website has some great advice—see information below.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- ★ Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day?
- ★ Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff?
- ★ Would I take a day off work if I had this condition?

What can parents do?

- ★ Sleep guidelines for primary school children advise 10 hours sleep a night. This will make the following day at school easier for them to cope with.
- ★ Having breakfast helps children stay alert at school.
- ★ Help your child develop routines for homework/reading/bedtime.
- ★ Encourage children to get their school bag ready the night before.
- ★ Where possible, try to make sure that any medical/dental appointments are made for after school.
- ★ Please don't take holidays in term time.
- ★ If your child is ill, ring the school as soon as possible on the first day of absence.

Absences:

If your child has to have a medical or dental appointment in school time please do your best to have it after 2PM and then your child can have their registration mark for the afternoon before you pick them up. If it needs to be a morning appointment please try and bring them to school first to get their mark and then return then to school afterwards.

Every half-day absence from school has to be classified **by the school** as either **AUTHORISED** or **UNAUTHORISED**. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required.

Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a good reason like illness (where a child is too ill to attend school) medical/dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time, emergencies or other unavoidable cause.

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been given. This type of absence can lead to the Authority using sanctions and/or legal proceedings.



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

A to Z of Attendance!

A. Appointments – Please try to arrange appointments after school. If in school time please bring your appointment card into school.

B. Being Bullied? – Please don't keep your child off school. There are many people at school that are trained and want to help.

C. Casual Absence – This means that children are being kept off school when they don't need to be. For example: to go shopping for birthday treats or pretend sickness. Non-attendance is very closely monitored.

D. D & V – Remember to stay away from school for 48 hours if your child has had diarrhoea or vomiting.

E. Encouragement – Encourage your child to be in school every day. Reinforce to them the importance of school for their learning and development.

F. Friendships – Friendships at school can stay with your child for the rest of their life. Days off school make it harder for your child to fit back into friendship groups.

G. Good Attendance – This is the secret to your child's success. Good attendance is anything above 96%.

H. Happy Times – Schools days can be the best time of your child's life. Don't let them miss out.

I. INSET - These are teacher training days. Your child is not at school these days so please find out when they are.

J. Jump for Joy! – Celebrate your child's attendance achievements when they are rewarded for good attendance at school.

K. Keep it up!– Get into good habits with your child. Good routines at home can lead to good routines for getting to school.

L. Lateness – Being late disrupts teaching, classroom doors open at 8.35 and your child will be embarrassed when they arrive in class after their friends. Arriving early to school will set them up for the day ready to learn!

M. Missed Minutes – As little as 15 minutes late every day is equal to two weeks of lost learning per academic year.

N. New Starters – It is important to get children into good patterns of attendance from reception and for their whole school career!

O. Opportunities – It is not all Maths, English and Science. School is about learning how to be good citizens and treating others with respect. Children can also be part of many trips, clubs groups and teams

P. Praise – Always look for the 'positives' in testing situation rather than the 'negatives.' Have a system at home to reward and praise good behaviour.

Q. Question – If you need to know anything about attendance, speak to Mrs Bartlett in the office or Mrs Welch!

R. Ring! – Ring school as soon as you know your child is going to be absent or late, you will be able to leave a message. If we have not received this information we will contact you.

S. SATs – These are very important tests that your child will sit in Year 6. Absence leading up to or during this time puts your child at a significant disadvantage.

T. Term Time Holidays – Children are out of school 175 days of the year. So there are plenty of days to take a holiday.

U. Unauthorised Absence - This means that the school won't authorise the time your child has been away for school. For example: late after register closed, holidays taken during term time or absences with no suitable explanation.

V. Volunteer – Show your children the importance of school by volunteering to help around the school.

W. Website – Check our website for information on diary dates holidays, school opening and closing times.

X. Xxxx – Show your child love and encouragement by asking them about their school day.

Y. You – You are legally responsible for ensuring your child attends school. Your child will thank you one day for encouraging them to attend and achieve good results.

Z. Zzzz – Early bedtimes make for early mornings and a better start to the school day.