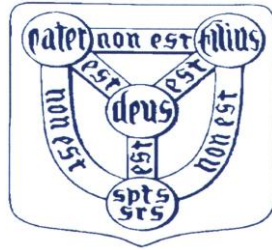


Shellingford CE (A) Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Judith Terrell



"Inspiring hearts and minds"

19th September 2025

Dear Parents,

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The new academic year is well underway and it has been lovely to welcome the children back again.

The Governing Body would like to draw your attention to the attached 'School Attendance – information for parents' leaflet.

Since COVID-19, pupil attendance levels nationally have not returned to pre-pandemic levels and this is causing concern for schools, Ofsted and the Department of Education (DfE).

We know that the last four years have been hugely challenging and the pandemic had a significant impact on our lives. Schools are noticing that parents, children and staff are having a lower resilience to setbacks and illness, and understandably showing anxieties as a result. Schools are reporting a more lax attitude towards children arriving to school on time, as well as families re-scheduling or taking holidays in term-time.

In light of this we are required by the Local Authority to include the attached letter regarding Penalty Notices for term-time holidays.

The DfE have stressed the importance of improving school attendance for all children. We would like to ask for your support in maintaining good attendance for your child/ren and to ensure that they arrive at school on time and ready to learn.

Our school term dates for this academic year are available to download via the school's [website](#) and the 2024-25 school term dates have been sent out. **When booking a holiday, please check that it does not clash with the school term.**

Requests for any leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances must be received in advance and discussed directly with Miss Terrell. Authorisation for any leave of absence will only be considered if your child/ren's attendance is currently above 95%. A family holiday is **not** an exceptional circumstance.

The importance of good attendance and getting the most out of their school experience is essential for all children. As parents you have a legal duty to make sure your child/ren attends school regularly and punctually.

The school's Attendance Policy gives further information and guidance for parents, and this too can be found on the school's [website](#).

Thank you for your co-operation; by working together we can provide the best possible education for the children at Shellingford CE (A) Primary School.

With best wishes,

Mrs Jane Samways
(Chair of Governors)

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