

29<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. As part of our ongoing commitment to the education and wellbeing of our students, I am writing to all parents and carers to share important information regarding school attendance.

At the Arthur Terry School, we strive to provide the best possible learning environment for our students, and regular attendance is crucial in achieving this. Our aim is for all our students to maintain an attendance rate of 96% or higher, as consistent attendance is key to academic success and personal development.

We understand that circumstances such as illness and family emergencies can affect a student's attendance. However, it is important to be aware of the impact that even short absences can have. For example, an absence of 5% across a school year equates to approximately 9.5 days, or 47.5 lessons missed. This can significantly impact a student's learning and progress.

The table below provides an example of the impact of lost learning through pupil absence:

Attendance % over a school year	Equal to number of days absent	Converted to approximate weeks of absence	Approximate number of lessons missed
95%	9.5	2	47.5
90%	19	4	95
80%	38	8	190
70%	57	12	285

In addition to the above, we would like to address the topic of school sickness and attendance. We understand that deciding whether a child is too ill to attend school can be challenging. To assist you in making this decision, we encourage you to refer to the NHS guidance, ["Is my child too ill for school?"](#). This resource provides valuable information on various health conditions and advice on when a child should or should not attend school.

We also draw your attention to the letter to school leaders on [mild illness and school attendance provided by the government](#). It highlights the importance of maintaining regular attendance, even in the face of mild illnesses. A prolonged period of absence not only impacts learning but can also heighten a child's anxiety about attending school in the future. Therefore, we encourage students to stay in school whenever possible, and we will guide them in line with these recommendations.

We understand that there may be challenges impacting regular attendance, and we are here to support you and your child. If you have concerns regarding health issues or other attendance-related matters, please feel free to contact our attendance team at [Attendance@arthurterry.bham.sch.uk](mailto:Attendance@arthurterry.bham.sch.uk). We are committed to working together with you to ensure your child fully benefits from their education.

Yours sincerely,

The Attendance Team