

DOTHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Severn Drive, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 3JB
Telephone 01952 386870



Head Teacher: Becca Butler

Dear Parents/Carers

Attendance at School – Reporting Absence

Following the COVID pandemic there is a big push from the government to get school attendance back up to pre-pandemic levels. Our attendance at Dotherill is still significantly lower than it was pre-COVID.

Good attendance is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. **The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment.** So put simply, the more your child attends, the better they will do academically!

The Governors have set us the challenge of an overall attendance of 97%. Each week I will be telling the children in assembly which class has the best attendance.

I do understand that children get poorly and we do not want your child to come to school when they are not well enough to be here. However, if they have a sniffle or a tummy ache, it can often be the case that once they get to school and they are busy and having fun it takes their mind off their minor ailments. It helps to build up their resilience.

If your child is not well enough to come to school you need to **phone the office before 9.30am. Please do not email.** It is important to note that any message left on the school answer machine is confidential and secure so it is safe and appropriate for you to leave a message giving the reason for absence.

We monitor attendance regularly. If your child's attendance falls below 93% then we consider that to be the 'danger zone' with below 90% considered 'persistent absence'. This is when we have to take action and you may get a phone call, a letter, or be invited to a meeting to discuss how we can work together to help to improve attendance.

Thank you for your continued support and your willingness to work with us for the benefit of your children. I look forward to letting you know when we have reached our target!

Best wishes
Becca Butler
Head teacher



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