



**Abbey Mead Primary Academy**  
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**Principal:** Mr G Aldred

5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Regular attendance is an important part of giving children the best possible start in life. Here at Abbey Mead, we positively encourage your child's attendance from day one, providing them with opportunities to learn and aspire.

We recognise, that all parents want the very best for their children and for them to achieve their full potential. Having a good quality education is an important stepping stone to ensure that they flourish and achieve. Children only get one chance at school so let's make it count.

Evidence shows that children who maintain an attendance percentage above 96% are more likely to reach their potential and achieve academically. Our KS2 results are amongst the highest in the city, in part due to our determination for children to be in school each and every day!

	Reading	Writing	Maths	Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling
Abbey Mead	81%	80%	94%	87%
National	73%	71%	73%	72%

Sadly, evidence also shows that children who do not attend school on a regular basis are more likely to struggle academically, socially, and emotionally in all aspects of school life, struggling to maintain friendship groups which are a vital part of growing up.

Parents can often be surprised by how quickly their children's attendance percentage can fall from odd days of absence here and there. To support parents with maintaining high standards, you can view your child's attendance record for the year through our BROMCOM app. If you are unsure how, please pop along to the office and the admin team will be more than happy to help.

## **How can parents help?**

Parents can encourage good attendance by:

- Ensuring children get enough sleep through regular bedtime and morning routines.
- Being prepared, packing a school bag the night before, and setting out uniform
- Showing an interest in their child's school life and learning
- Arranging medical appointments and holidays outside of school hours
- Talking to their child's teacher early on if there are any concerns or anxieties.
- Working with their child to develop healthy hygiene practices to ward off general bugs.

If you are facing difficulties getting your child into school, it is important to discuss this with us at the earliest opportunity. We are here to help!

## **Who can help at school?**

At school, we have a dedicated team to support children in maintaining high levels of attendance.

- Mrs Seedat is available through the school office to support with attendance queries and to follow up any unexplained or repeated patterns of absence.
- Mrs Martin works alongside children to promote wellbeing and unpick anxieties, making sure school is a happy and safe place for all pupils.
- Mrs Jansari can support with medical needs that are contributing towards absence, working alongside the school nurse and other professionals to secure the best possible support.

## **Things to avoid!**

Term time holidays have been one of the biggest barriers to pupil's learning and achievement over the past few years. Whilst we recognise that family events can fall during term time, being clear with relatives that your children cannot miss education is key. Taking off extended periods of time to travel for any reason can impact your child's future; this includes time for weddings, rituals and celebrations! There are 13 weeks of school holiday a year which can be used to travel and visit family, we ask that you prioritise your child's education!

