

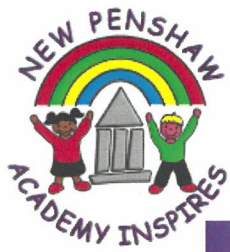
New Penshaw Academy

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Partners of SPORTING
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Proud to be a
Schools North East
Partner School



Monday 7th March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to request your support in ensuring that we enable all children to achieve their academic potential. We ask you do this by ensuring your child attends school on a regularly and on time.

While we are aware that attendance has been hampered at times due to the Covid pandemic, we have also found non-Covid related absence has increased across all year groups this academic year.

As you know we have been working alongside Attendance 100 to challenge sporadic absence and support families with any issues which may act as a barrier to attending regularly and on time.

There is considerable evidence to show that children who have good attendance (above 96%) in school are more likely to reach their educational potential. Therefore, we are committed to encouraging every child in our care to achieve regular attendance.

Please help us to continue to improve in the following ways;

- The school strongly urges parents to avoid booking family holidays during term-time. Learning continues in the absence of a child on holiday and as such has an impact on your child's education and leaves gaps in knowledge.
- Holiday leave requests will not be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances and the LA Attendance Team can issue fixed penalty notice fines to parents who choose to remove their children during term time.
- All requests for holiday absence to the Headteacher must be submitted in writing, and although they are likely to be unauthorised, we need to know the whereabouts of a child for Safeguarding purposes. Please do not go away without letting us know.
- Contact us before 9.15am on the **first day** of your child's absence to inform us of the reasons and call on each subsequent day of absence (in the case of confirmed covid please let us know the first and expected last day of mandatory isolation). This means we can authorise all absences and put in place any support your child might need to ease in a return to school.
- Obtain out of hours medical appointments where possible and return your child to school as soon as possible following an appointment. The school acknowledges that pupils will sometimes need to attend hospital appointments within school time.

Where attendance becomes a concern, parents or carers may be contacted by ourselves or Attendance 100 and offered support to overcome any barriers to good attendance.

Please feel free to contact Attendance 100 on 07585 123853 or email enquiries@attendance100.com at any time to discuss any concerns – we'll try our best to help!

If, following support, a child's attendance continues to be poor, we will when necessary, make a referral to the Local Authority attendance team. They may pursue legal recourse to ensure a child is receiving an education in accordance with the Education Act 1996. Although we prefer not to take this course of action, if we can work together to improve attendance.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Mrs S Johnson
Head Teacher

