



ATTENDANCE MATTERS !

Attendance at Kensington Junior School has continually achieved in excess of 96% during the last few years, this would be judged as 'Good' by Ofsted.

We will continue to use our traffic light system to inform parents regarding attendance throughout the year with a few alterations as follows:

- ♦ Pupils achieving 100% and those with attendance over 96% will continue to be rewarded with a certificate at the end of each term.
- ♦ Parents of pupils with attendance of 91% - 95.99% will continue to receive an amber letter giving a percentage **Year to Date** attendance figure at least termly.
- ♦ Parents of pupils with a **Year to Date** attendance figure below 91% will receive letters informing them that their child's attendance will be tracked on a weekly basis until it exceeds the above figure. Regular updates will be sent to parents of children on our tracking list.

If you have any questions regarding changes to this system please contact school and we will be happy to explain further.

Our current attendance for the academic year 2016/17 is: **95.94%**

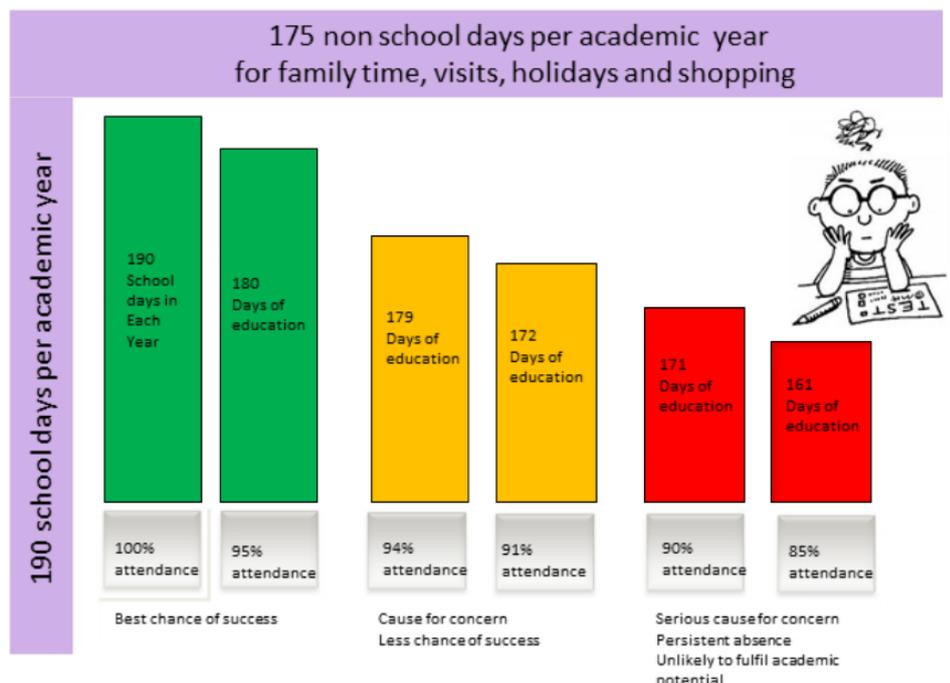
Please refer to the information on the reverse of this Newsletter to explain the procedure for Leave of Absence during Term time.

Good Attendance Means

being in school at least 95% of the time (between 180 & 190 days)

If you are worried about your child's attendance please talk to school about it or alternatively seek advice and support from your local Multi Agency Team via Call Derbyshire On:

01629 533190



The School and LEA have targets to meet for attendance at school for every child to make sure they achieve and succeed.

In line with Government legislation which came in to force September 2013, we strongly discourage parents/carers from withdrawing children from school during term-time and only in exceptional and/or unavoidable circumstances should leave of absence request forms be submitted. Parents cannot assume that just because a leave of absence form has been completed, and you have contacted the school, that the leave will be authorised.

If you take the decision to go ahead with an unauthorised leave of absence, you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice from the Local Education Authority.

Following a court case in July 2015 in the Isle of Wight, the Isle of Wight LA have now been given permission to appeal against the judgement to the Supreme Court. Derbyshire's position pending future judgement/guidance/legislation is as follows:

Schools will continue to consider requests for leave of absence in accordance with regulations (exceptional circumstances only) and submit all requests for the issue of penalty notices to the Local Authority in the normal way.

Where overall attendance is above 94% over the previous 12 months, calculated from the week after the holiday absence, penalty notices will not be issued. In such cases, parents will be sent a letter from the local authority advising that their child's record will show unauthorised absence and any future unauthorised absence leave may result in the issue of a penalty notice. *(DCC Sept. 16)*

Where overall attendance is at or below 94% penalty notices will be issued by Derbyshire County Council.

All applications are referred to Governors, and those identifying exceptional circumstances are considered on their own merits. These might include terminal illness of parents or siblings, children with severe chronic illness or other medical conditions.

School can only authorise leave of absence if the application meets **all** the following points:

- *There is unavoidable cause which prevents a holiday from being taken during the holiday period (**the lower cost of a holiday does not count as an unavoidable cause**)*
- *It ordinarily is for a maximum of 10 school days in any school year*
- *The student's previous attendance record is satisfactory*
- *The absence will not seriously damage the student's education*
- *The parent has not previously taken a student out of school.*

Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve. Every school day counts

If you are worried about your child's attendance please talk to us at school.