



NORTHSIDE Primary School



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Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Attendance in our Nursery and Reception Classes

Recently, attendance levels across the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) have been lower than expected, with an increased number of absences. We understand that there are times when children may need to be absent from school due to illness or other genuine reasons and we appreciate that parents always want to do what is best for their child. However, regular attendance is extremely important, particularly in the Early Years.

In Nursery and Reception, children are developing essential skills that form the foundation for all future learning. While learning in the EYFS is often play-based, this play is carefully planned and purposeful. Through these activities, children develop key skills in communication and language, early reading and writing, number, social interaction, independence and emotional development. When children miss school, they miss out on valuable learning experiences and routines that are difficult to replicate at home.

We are aware that there can sometimes be a perception that Early Years is 'just play,' which may make it feel easier to keep children at home. However, every day in the EYFS is an important learning day and regular attendance helps children to feel confident, settled and ready to learn. Please be assured that if your child is slightly unwell, our staff will always look after them during the school day. If we have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, we will contact you immediately. We would never expect a child who is genuinely unwell to remain in school.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to ensure that any absences are in line with the school's attendance policy and that children attend school every day unless there is a valid reason for absence. Thank you for your continued support and for working with us to give your child the very best start to their education. If you have any questions or concerns about attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Millwood
EYFS and KS1 Lead Practitioner



**WE HAVE
ACHIEVED**

