



**Penn Wood Primary and Nursery School**  
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Whole School

20<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear Parent /Carer,

I write to congratulate all those families who have continued to improve their child's attendance over recent months. Penn Wood School has seen a recognised overall improvement of whole school attendance, which currently sits at 97%. This is a brilliant achievement, one which we are truly proud of and thankful for.

You may have seen in the national press on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 the article regarding the Isle of Wight case where the Supreme Court ruled that any adult with parental responsibilities must ensure that their child attends every school day in full as defined by section 444 of the 1996 Education Act. If you wish to read in more detail about this case, please follow the link provided [www.bbc.co.uk/news/education - 39504338](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-39504338)

Please be reassured that any queries regarding absence and how it will be coded is done in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team. Only very exceptional extended leave with sufficient evidence to support it will be considered for authorisation. In essence though, any absence whether authorised or not will mean your child will miss out on their schooling.

Penn Wood wishes the very best outcomes for all children. Our school and its teachers plan a wealth of learning opportunities every day. Fantastic attainment together with great attendance go hand in hand with research suggesting significant improvement in GCSE grades can be achieved.

I take great pleasure in recognising pupils who present with excellent attendance records. Every term I hold year group assemblies where children with above 95% attendance are recognised. I challenge the children, even at this young age, to broaden their horizons and chase their dreams by giving themselves an excellent start in life with superb attendance. Children whose non-attendance has caused concern and whom go on to make significant improvements, will be equally encouraged. The celebration of good attendance sends a positive and powerful message to all.

As we now enter the final term of this academic year we ask all parents / carers not only to fulfil their parental responsibility in ensuring their child reaches the best possible school attendance but equally gives their child a chance to shine, be recognised and feel empowered in terms of their knowledge and achievements. I truly look forward to continuing to work with you and sharing future successes with you and your children.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Welford  
Attendance Leader