



The Ryde School

Pleasant Rise, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 5DR

01707 267333 | www.ryde.herts.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Sue Thompson

Friday 27th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I am very pleased to share with you how much the school attendance has improved the term. This week has a higher attendance rate than last week, which is very positive for the children and their learning.

Our attendance has shown a good improvement last week:

Monday: 96 % Tuesday: 98.2 % Wednesday: 98.6 % Thursday: 96.9 % Friday: 97.8%

Every class has achieved 100% attendance at least one day this week with most achieving three or more days at 100%

Year 2 have had a whole week with 100% attendance

We aim to maintain this progress now, and keep on improving.

**Our attendance figure for the school year to date is 92.5%
compared to the National average of 93.4%**

The National target is 96%

I would like to clarify, that I have no choice in deciding whether to authorise or unauthorise an absence. It is written clearly by the Department of Education what is classified as an authorised absence. The Attendance and Improvement Officer oversees all absences when she visits the school and challenges the absences I authorise.

It is also written in government policy the percentage levels that trigger letters to be sent to parents. You can find these in our Attendance Policy. These letters are provided by the Attendance Officer for the school to send to parents.

I understand, and so does the Attendance Officer, that at times children are unwell and not able to attend school, but letters are still sent as parents are to be informed that their child's attendance has dropped below a threshold. Neither the school or the Attendance Officer is concerned about genuine sickness absences as these are usually not frequent or for a long periods of time.

In school the children are encouraged to attend school through positive challenges. Every day is a fresh challenge with classes aiming for 100% attendance each day. Every week classes aim to have the best class attendance. Every half term children aim to have 100% attendance. The result of these challenges has been very positive. Every class has achieved 100% daily attendance, and the frequency of this is increasing. Most classes have achieved best attending class of the week. Last Monday there were 181 children who have had 100% attendance so far this half term.

We are hoping that the positive start in improving attendance this term will continue.

Yours sincerely

Sue Thompson

