



The Ryde School

Pleasant Rise, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 5DR

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Headteacher: Mrs Sue Thompson

Friday 2nd December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sorry to report that our school attendance has dropped to **89.1%**. This is quite shocking for our school. An effort really needs to be made to ensure children are in school every day. Our attendance is probably the lowest in Hatfield, and we have never had such a low attendance rate.

Many of you will have received letters this week outlining that your children's attendance is below the government and school target of 96.1%.

This is such a shame as such a low level of attendance would definitely prevent us from achieving an Outstanding grading at our next inspection and most likely affect our Good grading. This would be such a disappointment after parents, staff and children's hard work to make the school the best it can be.

I am sure you will be as keen as we are to improve this figure and I would urge you to send your children to school unless they are really too poorly to attend. I would like to remind you that holidays should not be taken in term time. If time out of school is necessary, you should collect a form from the school office to request the absence at least two weeks before the event.

Taking children out of education will have a negative impact on their attainment and progress. Research indicates levels in primary school have a significant effect on children's outcomes at the end of secondary school.

In school we will be promoting good attendance next week with a class competition. Each day the class with the highest attendance will receive a reward e.g. an extra playtime, time on the iPads or something similar. The class with the highest attendance at the end of the week will have a special treat of their choosing (within reason of course!).

We will be monitoring each child's attendance to see the improvement they can make until the end of term.

There are 42 children who have 100% attendance so far this term and they will each receive a certificate to acknowledge this and be encouraged to maintain this level of attendance.

I do hope you will support the school by ensuring your child attends school every day.

Yours sincerely

Sue Thompson

