AUTUMN EDITION

Attendance Newsletter



Welcome

A warm welcome to our first Carr Junior School Attendance Newsletter.
This newsletter is to focus on promoting excellent attendance in school to get the very best for the young people in our school. We intend for it to be an avenue for attendance information for all parents/carers. We are committed to ensuring that every child has every opportunity to do their best, grow in confidence and make and maintain friendships and relationships within the school setting and beyond.



School Attendance Target

Our school attendance target is 96%. Last academic year we ended at 94.94% which is below our target. So far this academic year we are doing well and are currently at 96.1% which is fantastic!

Attendance Awards

At Carr Junior School, we take pleasure in celebrating our children's achievements. This includes attendance and punctuality. We have a number of incentives running across the school linked to attendance and all children are eligible for these.

<u>100% Attendance Wheel</u>
Every Friday during assembly, we run an attendance wheel. A day of the week is chosen from the previous week, usually with a lower attendance percentage than other days, and all children who attended that day are entered onto the wheel. This is then spun and whichever child it lands on can choose a prize to the value of £10.00.

<u>Attendance Heroes</u>
We have a couple of whole class incentives, one being the Attendance Heroes. At the start of each week, all classes with 96% attendance for the previous week receive a letter from the word 'HEROES'. Once they have all of the letters, they can choose a reward collectively as the class. For example, this could be free time on a chromebook, extra play time or a snack in class.

<u>Attendance Star Awards</u>
Each week, a few children from each class are chosen to go on an Attendance Star Chart. Each day that they are in for two weeks, they will receive a star on their chart. At the end of that two week period, Mrs Williams comes round the classes with the Attendance Award trolley for children to choose a little prize. This often creates quite a buzz in school! The aim is that all children will have been on a star chart at least once by the end of the school year.

Attendance Newsletter

AUTUMN EDITION

Working together...

Do you know how many days your child has missed this year?

Absences quickly add up and parents often tell us they are surprised by how many days their children have missed. The Arbor app allows you to quickly check your child's attendance. If you would like support with setting this up, please let the office know.

Concerns/Reporting Absences

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or to report an absence, please contact the office on 01904 798996 or email admin@carrjunior.elt.org.uk or attendance@carrjunior.elt.org.uk and Mrs Williams, our Attendance Officer and/or Mrs Winston, Head of School, will be happy to help.

Attendance slips and attendance percentages

We wanted to provide some clarification about the weekly attendance notifications that some families may receive, particularly at this early stage of the school year.

Each week, our attendance system automatically identifies pupils whose attendance currently falls within the Persistent Absence (PA) threshold. A pupil is classed as persistently absent when they have missed 10% or more of the school sessions available to them.

It is important to understand that this percentage is calculated using the school days that have taken place so far in the academic year, rather than across the whole year. This means that, particularly in September, one or two days of absence can have a much greater impact on a child's attendance percentage than they would later in the year.

For example, after 10 school days, one full day of absence would mean attendance of 90%. As more school days take place, each individual day has a smaller effect on the overall percentage and, with regular attendance, a child's percentage can quickly begin to improve.

The weekly slip is an automated notification to keep families informed. Receiving one does not mean that we are questioning the reason for an absence or suggesting that a child has an ongoing attendance concern. A child who has been genuinely unwell may still temporarily fall within the PA threshold simply because of the way attendance is calculated at that point in the year.

If you have already informed school that your child was absent due to illness and this has been recorded correctly, you do not need to provide this information again in response to the notification.

We know that children do become unwell and there will inevitably be occasions when they are not fit to attend school. At the same time, regular attendance is incredibly important, and our weekly notifications are designed to ensure that families are aware of their child's current attendance and can work with us where additional support may be helpful.

Thank you, as always, for your support in helping children attend school regularly and make the most of every day at Carr.