

Attendance Matters

Issue 31 Spring Term 2024

Attendance Matters is a termly newsletter which is sent out to families of children who attend schools within the Wisbech Schools' Partnership

The newsletter will keep families updated on the latest attendance information and news.



Happy New Year!



100% ATTENDANCE REWARDS



Congratulations to 5 lucky winners who attended school every day with no lates during the Autumn term. Well done!

Prizes included books, and family games plus tickets to Bowl2Day.

Prizes are awarded each term to 5 lucky winners who have 100% attendance during the term with no lates.

We'd like to extend our appreciation to Bowl2Day for their generous donations.

The Education System

Education is compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 16. From 2013, all young people will be required to continue in learning or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17. From 2015, they will be required to continue in learning or training until age 18.

Early years

This is for children aged 0 – 5 and is known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Primary

The primary stage covers 2 age ranges:

Infant (5 to 7 or 8) - Key Stage 1

Junior (up to 11 or 12) - Key Stage 2

Secondary

For children between the ages of 11 – 16 (and up to 18), secondary schooling covers 3 key stages:

11 – 14 year olds – Key Stage 3

14 – 16 year olds – Key Stage 4

16 – 18 year olds – Key Stage 5

Further Education (FE)

Further education covers non-advanced courses for young people aged 16 and over. A wide range of courses at different levels are available.

Higher Education (HE)

Universities and colleges offer a range of degree level courses for young people aged 18 and over.

Term Dates*

Spring term 2024

Thur 4 Jan to Thur 28 March 2024

Half term:

Mon 19 to Fri 23 Feb 2024

Easter hols:

Fri 29 Mar to Fri 12 Apr 2024

Summer term 2024

Mon 15 April to Mon 22 July 2024

Bank Hol: Mon 6 May 2024

Half term:

Mon 27 to Fri 31 May 2024

Summer hols:

Tues 23 July to Mon 2 Sept 2024

Autumn term 2024

Tue 3 Sept to Fri 20 Dec 2024

Half term:

Mon 28 Oct to Fri 1 Nov 2024

Christmas hols:

Mon 23 Dec 2024 to Fri 3 Jan 2025

*Please note -

Academies and some schools are able to set different dates. Schools have 5 training days available to take at their discretion. Please contact your school for these details.



SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO SNOWY WEATHER AND HEATING BREAKDOWN

Your school may send you a text, if not you can phone them or view their website.

Cambs. County Council publishes details on their website:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk and their Helpline is 01223 706399.

Closures are also on local radio:

Heart 102.7 FM

Greatest Hits Radio 96.7 FM

BBC Radio Cambridgeshire

What can parents do to ensure good attendance?

Make sure your child arrives at school on time. This encourages habits of good timekeeping and lessens any possible classroom disruption. If your child arrives after the register has closed without a good reason, this will be recorded as an 'unauthorised' absence for that session.

If your child has to miss school, it is vital that you let the school know why ... on the first morning of the absence before 9am.

If you know, or think, that your child is having difficulties attending school, you should contact the school. It is better to do this sooner rather than later, as most problems can be dealt with very quickly.

Non-attendance at school

Failure to ensure a child's regular attendance at school is a criminal offence. If with support from the school's attendance officer and/or the Local Authority, your child's attendance does not improve, the Local Authority will consider one of two actions:

Penalty Notice. Each parent can be fined £60, which rises to £120 each if you do not pay within 21 days. If payment is not received within 28 days from the issue of the penalty notice, you may be prosecuted for the offence of 'irregular attendance'. You could then be subject to a fine of up to £1,000 on conviction.

Prosecution in the Magistrates' court. Both parents could get a fine of up to £2,500, a community order or a jail sentence up to three months each. The court may also give you a Parenting Order. The offence will apply to each child individually. Both parents are liable for the offence. The Education Act considers each 'responsible adult' as a 'parent'. This includes a family friend or relative if the child lives with them and they provided day-to-day care.