

Tuesday 3rd September

Dear parents/carers,

I wanted to write to you to share why good attendance is important to your child's success, how we will be reporting class attendance on our newsletter each week and our new rewards for 2024-2025.

Why is attendance important?

- ▶ Westleigh Methodist Primary School believe that regular school attendance is the key to enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available to them. Excellent attendance at school has been closely linked to emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who are able to realise their full potential – enabling them to make a positive contribution to their community and beyond.
- ▶ We believe that children must 'Attend to Achieve' - excellent attendance has a direct impact on attainment. In 2019 (the most recent government study) the pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 had higher rates of attendance than those with the lowest attainment. The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to a full-time education.

Parental Role in Attendance

- ▶ The parental role in ensuring children attend school daily is key, and as such, we expect parents/carers to fulfil their legal responsibility to ensure their child has good time keeping and attendance. This means your child must attend, on time, every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence, in advance, from school. When children cannot attend school, we expect parents to report the absence as soon as possible and no later than 9am which is when registration closes.

Each week on the newsletter we share each class's weekly attendance and class year to date attendance. We share how many sessions this equates to for the week and year. Each day counts as two sessions – a morning session and an afternoon session. Therefore if 2 children are absent from class for 2 days each, this equates to 8 missed sessions within that class (4 for each child).

With God, all things are possible – Matthew 19:26



CEO: Mrs J A Hewitt
Exec Headteacher: Mrs Burkes
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The information is presented in the following table and shows data for Reception to Year 6:

Registration form(s) between...	Weekly %	Weekly Sessions missed	YTD %	YTD sessions missed
Reception Class	93.4%	13	91.6%	724
Year 1	88.3%	31	90.1%	954
Year 2	94.1%	17	95.6%	421
Year 3	87.3%	36	92.6%	740
Year 4	91.3%	26	93.8%	624
Year 5	90.3%	31	93.7%	648
Year 6	89.7%	31	90.4%	924

YTD % = year to date attendance %

YTD sessions missed = year to date sessions missed

This data is displayed on classroom doors and shared with our children so collectively we can share in the vision to improve attendance at school.

Excellent attendance at school is vital to securing the greatest possible personal development and academic progress for each child. We expect all families to be committed to excellent attendance. If you feel your child has a mild illness then please send them into school and staff will monitor and ring you if needed. In a small number of incidences your child maybe too ill to attend, we expect you to report the absence as soon as possible and no later than 9am which is when registration closes.



The definition of good attendance in Wigan is 98% or better. Some would say 90% is good attendance - In a test, scoring 90% would be great, but this is not the same for attendance. In fact, 90% attendance is equivalent to missing one day of school every fortnight! That is 19 days across a year missed or, in other words, almost a month of school!

Please ensure your child 'Attends like a Star' – in everyday and on time.

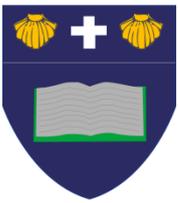
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Awards

We have new attendance and punctuality awards in school to support our children and families to attend like stars. These are weekly, termly and yearly.

► Weekly Awards

Weekly there will be a winning class for the highest attendance and strongest punctuality for the previous week and the winning classes will receive a Shining Star trophy for their class for the week.



Every child who gains 100% attendance each week will gain a raffle ticket into the prize fund. This raffle will be drawn at the end of the year and the winner will be able to choose a bike or scooter! The more times a child received 100% for the week then the more chances they have of winning!

► Termly Awards

Each child who gains 100% attendance for the whole term (Autumn, Spring and Summer) will be invited to that term's attendance award at the end of the term.

► Yearly Awards

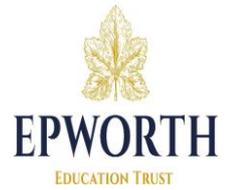
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Each child with 100% attendance for the whole year will receive a prize at our yearly Oscar's Awards in July 2025.

Please ensure your child 'Attends like a Star' – in everyday and on time and if you feel you need further support with your child's attendance or punctuality then please do get in contact with Mrs Sumner, our pastoral manager or speak to myself or Mrs Boardman on the gate each day.

Thank you for your continue support,

Mrs Taylor
Deputy Headteacher

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