



Head: **Sally Maddison**

Flatts Lane, Calverton, Nottingham NG14 6JZ

Tel: **0115 9652291** Fax: **0115 9655701**

office@sirjohnsherbrooke.notts.sch.uk

www.sirjohnsherbrooke.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

As it is coming to the end of term, we feel it is the right time to remind you and update you on a few key safeguarding and attendance pieces of information relevant to you.

Online Safety Support

We know that keeping your child safe online gets harder and harder with each new app or game that comes out. However, it is vital that adults keep a very close eye on how their child is interacting with things and others online and support them with making the right choices. In school, we do regular e-safety lessons and speak often with the children about how to stay safe online, but with most of their access to the internet being outside of school, we ask for families support with educating their children too.

Our ONLINE SAFETY section of our website (which can be found under the Key Information tab) is regularly updated with fact sheets for parents on how to keep their children safe on a variety of key internet based apps and games.

One of the biggest areas of concern around online safety for our children seems to be their access to Whatsapp groups/messages or other messaging/sharing apps such as snapchat. The legal age to be on Whatsapp is 16 years old, however if you have chosen to allow your child to have a Whatsapp account, we ask that you monitor it extremely carefully, especially the large group chats, as this is where hurtful, abusive and/or rude comments can be made and sometimes photos are shared that you wouldn't want them to share. The last thing anyone wants is for these types of chats to get out of hand and become bullying.

Safety in the Village

Another key area for keeping children safe is how they are monitored when out and about by themselves unsupervised – at the park, on their bike or spending time around Calverton with their friends. As your child becomes older and you start to give them increased independence, it is important that they are able to cope with the situations that may happen when they are unsupervised.

We are aware that there are incidents of children getting into fights, being aggressive or rude to other people or getting involved with inappropriate activities with older children. It is vital that if you know your child is getting caught up in incidents like this, that you put actions in place to protect them. This may

mean not allowing them to be out unsupervised until they are able to make the right choices or calling the police if an incident is serious enough. A key area of risk to be aware of is where younger children are befriended by older children or adults and then encouraged to take part in criminal activity or become part of gangs – this is called Child Criminal Exploitation and is something that is key for families to keep a close eye on and monitor.

Attendance

It is vital that your child attends school as much as is physically possible. Even missing a few days here or there over a term can have a significant impact on their learning and ability to keep up with the rest of their class.

With the increased government focus on attendance, schools will be expected to become even more formal with their attendance approach, with increased monitoring and additional support put in place. Please see the grid below to understand the attendance expectations and possible outcomes if attendance drops below certain percentages. Being late to school also impacts these percentages.

It is important to note that poor attendance can be seen as a sign of neglect and can be a trigger for getting social services involved. If you need support with attendance, please speak with school and together we will work on helping overcome any barriers.

Above 97%	Less than 6 days absence a year! Excellent attendance! Pupils with this attendance should achieve the best grades they can.
95%	Less than 10 days absence in a year! Pupils with this attendance are likely to achieve their target grades.
90%	20 days absence over the year! Pupils with this attendance are missing a month of school per year and will fall behind in Maths, Literacy and other subjects; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best. This is the point where children are classed as 'Persistently Absent'
85%	30 days absence in a year! These pupils are missing 6 weeks of school a year! It will be very difficult for them to keep up and achieve their best. The Attendance Strategy Leader will be looking at your child's attendance to make sure that it does not dip below the next level of 80%.
80%	Pupils with this attendance are missing a day for every week of school! It will be almost impossible to keep up with their work. Parents of pupils with this level of attendance will be well known to the Attendance Strategy Leader and the Education Welfare Officer (Targeted Support Team). Your child's attendance will be closely monitored and letters will be sent home to alert you of their poor attendance. If attendance does not show an improvement then a Penalty Notice may be issued from the Targeted Support Team.

If you would like more support or information on keeping children safe and happy as they grow up, please visit the NSPCC website, as it contains a lot of useful advice for parents, including how to deal with new babies and divorce.

Take Care

Miss Maddison