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Dear Parents,

Every Day Counts: Why Attendance Matters

At SJS, we want every child to achieve their full potential, develop strong friendships, and enjoy coming to school. Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's success.

Children who attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Make good academic progress.
- Feel confident in their learning.
- Develop positive friendships.
- Build resilience and independence.
- Feel connected to their school community.
- Develop strong social and emotional skills.

Understanding Attendance

Attendance %	Attendance Category	What This Means	Actions
100%	Excellent	No learning time missed – your child has the best chance of achieving their potential with confidence.	None – this is excellent so keep it up!
96% - 99.9%	Monitoring	Some learning missed. Attendance should be maintained as close to 100% as possible.	**Monitoring:** Your child's class teacher will closely monitor your child's attendance and work with them to understand their experiences of school life to identify any areas of concern in order to prevent them from falling into any of the following concerning categories.
90% - 95.9%	Concerning	Attendance is below the national expectation of 96% and needs improvement to prevent further impact on learning and legal action being taken.	**Attendance Review and Identification:** Your child's class teacher will contact you to discuss their attendance to understand the potential barriers and see what support we may be able to offer or signpost you to. **If your child's absences are unauthorised, you may receive a penalty notice warning letter.**
Below 90%	Persistent Absence (PA)	Your child has missed at least 10% of school sessions and will be unable to reach their potential.	**Attendance Support Plan:** A member of the Senior Leadership Team will contact you to discuss your child's attendance and implement an **Attendance Support Plan.** **If your child's absences are unauthorised, you may receive a penalty notice from the LA.**
50% or below	Severe Persistent Absence (SPA)	Your child has missed at least half of their education which is a serious safeguarding concern that requires urgent attention.	**External Agency Involvement:** The Senior Leadership Team will continue to work with you and other external agencies to support your child's attendance and wellbeing.

The Impact on Learning

When children miss school, they miss:

- Direct teaching from their teacher.
- Opportunities to practise new skills.
- Discussions and explanations that cannot always be replicated later.
- Group work and collaborative learning.
- Opportunities to build confidence in class.

Research consistently shows a strong link between good attendance and higher attainment. Missing school can affect progress, attainment, confidence and readiness to learn.

The Impact on Social and Emotional Development

School is about much more than academic learning.

Regular attendance helps children:

- Build and maintain friendships.
- Develop communication skills.
- Learn how to work with others.
- Feel part of their class community.
- Develop self-confidence and a sense of belonging.

When attendance is lower, children may:

- Feel less confident joining activities.
- Miss important social experiences.
- Find it harder to maintain friendships.
- Feel anxious about returning after periods of absence.
- Become less connected to school life.

We carefully monitor attendance so that we can:

- Celebrate excellent attendance.
- Identify concerns early.
- Work with families to remove barriers to attendance.
- Ensure every child has the best opportunity to succeed.

Our aim is always to work in partnership with parents and carers to support children in attending school regularly and punctually.

How Parents Can Help

You can support your child by:

- Establishing good bedtime and morning routines.
- Booking routine appointments outside school hours wherever possible.
- Avoiding holidays during term time.
- Talking positively about school.
- Contacting us promptly if your child is experiencing difficulties affecting attendance.

If you are worried about your child's attendance, wellbeing, health or anxiety about school, please contact us. We are here to help and will work alongside you to find solutions.

Every lesson matters. Every day counts. Excellent attendance gives children the best opportunity to achieve academically, develop socially and emotionally, and enjoy a successful school experience.

Kind regards,

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Rebecca Mee
Head Teacher