

ATTENDANCE NEWS

As you will be aware, we have always encouraged excellent attendance in our school and are working hard to achieve our overall target of 97% for the 2018/19 school year. We continue to work together to ensure our children are keen to learn and eager to come into school every day because we know that **attendees are learners and learners are achievers.**

Basil is our school attendance mascot. He moves around school spending each week with the winner of the 'Best Class Attenders of the Week Award'. At the



moment, the best classes in school having been back five weeks since the summer break are Mr Smith's Year 1 class at 99% and Miss Keenan's Year 6 class at 98.2%.

Last school year, Miss Clarke's year 5/6 class won the best class attendance at 96.5%. Every single child in that class has received some sweets or chocolate.



Quite apart from the fact that **attendees are learners and learners are achievers**, we want to provide a further incentive to come to school. Every year we reward all children who achieve a fantastic 100% attendance over the

whole year with a trip to Barnsley Bowl to enjoy lunch and a game of bowling.
42 children qualified this year.

Every child who comes to school every single day each term will be entered into a draw to win a huge prize at the end of the school year. Just before we break up for the summer in July, every child could have up to 3 chances to win the prize if they achieved 100% through all 3 terms.



Last school year, 110 children achieved 100% during Summer term and will all be given a ticket to enter the draw, along with 130 x 100% attendees for the Autumn and 144 during Spring Term. Children therefore have as many as three chances to put their names in to win the big prize. This way, each term children get a clean slate, so if they've suffered illness and been absent during one term, the following term they start a fresh with another chance to get 100% during the new term. Don't forget that every child who attends every single day through the whole year will still get to enjoy a bowling trip!



Now for the big news - the BIG prize. We are delighted to inform you the big prize based on attendance during 2017/2018 was given to Daphne in Year 2. Her name was drawn in a celebration assembly. The prize up for grabs depends on the age of the child who wins, but we can guarantee it will be worth in the region of £100!

We're aiming to top 180 children this term and this is a realistic ambition. If your child has a cold or a cough, as long as they don't feel ill (really high temperature or dizziness), they can still come to school to learn.



If there is a genuine reason that your child is unable to attend school one day, it is your legal duty to inform the school office before 9.30am that morning (on 01226 272740). If you do not give us an acceptable reason, the absence will be unauthorised – the Education Welfare Officer can insist that we fine the parents of any child who has 5 or more day's unauthorised absence.

Examples of acceptable reasons: too ill, hospital appointment, emergency appointment for toothache, religious observation. Examples of unacceptable reasons (and we've heard them all!): to go shopping, a birthday, tired, sibling ill, sibling's inset day, minor ailments (sprained ankle, cough), check up at the dentist, taking holiday's during term time without exceptional circumstances.

Early Bird Award: This award has helped us to combat lateness. The class with the fewest late marks during the week receive an extra ten minutes golden time on Friday. The reception classes seem to be the most common winners of this award. Don't be the one letting your child and their class down. **School starts at 8.40am.**



Thank you if you are already doing a great job, which most of you are, but let's get everyone's house organised and everyone's child/children here on time. We know it's not always easy, but aim to have uniforms laid out before bed, coats hung and shoes polished by the door. Once children have spent their fifteen minutes reading, pack bags with everything needed for the following day. Don't forget, it's easier all round if P.E. kits are brought into school on Monday mornings and left until Fridays. Do as much preparation as you can the night before for lunch boxes – sandwiches will survive a night in the fridge. All this helps



plan for a calm morning where a few minutes can be spared to sit and eat a healthy breakfast before the queue starts for the bathroom.

For every day a child is not at school, they lose out on learning. Persistent absence adds up and your child will fall behind their classmates. Once this happens, research proves it takes up to a term in full attendance to catch up. This does impact on their future life chances. We all want your children to succeed.



We do not want to waste a single day with your children. We want to successfully educate, inspire and enrich our children in a school where they feel safe and happy. We want children to want to be here.

The prizes we offer are certainly not bribes, but rewards for making every effort to come in and enjoy what's on offer from our excellent team here at Kings Oak.

Set your child a target of better attendance than last term, no matter how good last term was. If your child achieved 100% attendance, then challenge them to equal it. Please continue to support our attendance initiatives by getting your child/children to school each day and on time and remember **attendees are learners and learners are achievers.**

School Matters!

