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Dear Parents and Carers

Attendance is good at our school and is currently averaging above 96%. As you know, government regulations mean that we are no longer able to authorise holiday (unless there are exceptional circumstances) and if your child's attendance currently falls below 85% they are classed as a 'persistent absentee' (PA) and immediately come under the remit of the Educational Welfare Service. From September, the government is raising the threshold to 90% for this category. If your child's attendance is at 92% or below, you may get a call from the Educational Welfare Officer to discuss the reasons for absence. Please don't worry if this happens, as it is a supportive intervention designed to improve the situation. Difficulties only occur when children are persistently absent and medical information is not forthcoming. If you are attending a medical appointment please ensure you bring in relevant documentation.

Good attendance and punctuality are important for learning outcomes. There are clear links between poor attendance and poor attainment. Children who miss school are at a considerable disadvantage to their peers. Evidence shows that only 35% of pupils, who miss between 10 and 20 percent of their schooling, manage to achieve five A* to C grades at GCSE, including English and maths. This compares to 73% of pupils, who achieve five A* to C grades, if they have missed less than 5%. If a child goes through school, averaging 80% attendance, for example, they will have missed almost two and a half years of schooling by the age of 16.

If you are concerned about your child's attendance, please come and speak to me or make contact via e-mail on inclusionleader@chipstead.croydon.sch.uk

Thank you for your support in getting your children to school regularly and on time.

Cathy MacDonald

Assistant Head