



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

18.01.2022

I wanted to start this term by welcoming you all back to school. I also want to remind you of an important commitment we need all parents and carers to make to ensure the welfare of the children.

The last three school years have seen an unprecedented period of disruption for children, parents, carers and teachers. We are immensely proud of how the school community has pulled together to ensure that the children at Great Whelnetham C of E Primary School have continued to get the best education possible.

This year the school will ensure that children have as much quality teaching time as possible to help their learning. Despite restrictions having been removed for many months we are seeing absences remaining stubbornly high. Unfortunately, many of these absences are avoidable and are having a negative effect on the children's learning. In the Autumn term we saw 63 unauthorised teaching sessions being missed. Such high levels of absence risk the children's academic futures and put a strain on our hardworking teaching staff.

The school governing body and teaching staff want all our children to achieve their potential. It is vital that all children are in class for all sessions for which they are able. Research has shown that poor school attendance directly impacts children's attainment. We know that children returning from a period of absence often struggle to catch up with their peers, which can in turn impact on their confidence and self-esteem. We are pleased to see that the attendance statistics are looking very positive since the return to school in September and we hope that these will continue as the year progresses.

This year we will be working closely with our Educational Welfare Officer, to ensure attendance is rigorously monitored. This means we will be contacting all parents who remove a child from school and we will be issuing fines where appropriate.

We will also be focussing on punctuality. If a child arrives after 9.00am, unless agreed by the school, parents or carers must deliver their children to the school office in person and wait until the child has been signed in as a late arrival by the office staff.

I trust you will support your children and the school by ensuring that your children miss as little school as possible and only for acceptable reasons.

Yours faithfully,

Steve Pitt

Chair of Governors

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