



Sheepscombe Primary School
Far End
Sheepscombe
Gloucestershire
GL6 7RL
01452 813852

admin@sheepscombe.gloucs.sch.uk
head@sheepscombe.gloucs.sch.uk

Head Teacher : Mrs Victoria Barron BSc Hons GTP Primary

Friday 15th February

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the last newsletter you will recall that I mentioned that this week we would be sending home a detailed attendance summary for each child in our school.

Attached to this explanatory letter you will find a one page summary for your child/children detailing their attendance for this academic year, from September 2018 (or their start date, if later) up until Thursday 14th February 2019 when the summaries were printed.

Additional codes

There are two additional codes that are not fully explained in the code key. One is the 'Y' code which means the school was closed due to snow. The other is a 'C' code for Wednesday 23rd January which some of you will have. This means that the school was open but some children did not come due to icy road conditions.

Overall percentage

The percentage figure in the top right corner shows the overall attendance since September (or since your child's start date if they started later than September 2018).

We have highlighted this percentage figure according to a coloured key, outlined below. The target for attendance is 97% or above.

Key

97.0 % +	Green : this is good attendance, at or above the school target
95.0- 96.9%	Yellow: this is almost in line - a slight rise will bring your child in line
90.0%-94.9%	Amber: this is an attendance figure that is of developing concern
Below 90%	Pink: this is defined as 'persistent absence' and is therefore of the greatest concern; a rapid improvement is needed over the next 3 terms

To put this in context:

Ten whole days (2 weeks) of school has been missed if a pupil has 95% attendance.

Twenty whole days (4 weeks) of school has been missed if a pupil's attendance is 90%.

85% attendance means 6 weeks has been lost over the course of a year - an entire term of schooling. The pupil will therefore have missed a significant part of their education. Over a 5 year period they will have missed 6 months of school. If this were to continue for the course of your child's education your child will have missed 18 months of their schooling.



Why are we sending this data?

This mid-year snapshot is only part of the picture as we are only half way through the school year. However, we feel it is important that you know the attendance figures for your child now so that we can talk about any issues or trends that arise from the data, especially those that are not explained by genuine illness. We will also work with you to identify any further support you may need.

If your child is classed as 'persistently absent' (so <90% coded pink) you will be asked to attend a meeting with Mrs Barron to discuss this early in Term 4. Mrs Powell will be in touch to arrange a time for this.

What do Ofsted say?

When making a judgement on our school's success, attendance and absence rates are taken into account. The Ofsted Inspection Handbook states that Ofsted Inspectors will consider: overall attendance and persistent absence rates (<90%) for all pupils; whether our lower attenders are improving their attendance over time and whether school attendance is consistently low (in the lowest 10%) compared to National figures. Our school currently sits in a very vulnerable position for attendance over time, despite some improvements seen last year in 2017 - 18. It is imperative that we show a rising attendance rate - both for our school but more importantly for your child's progress to be maximised.

Current attendance and comparisons

At the time of writing our whole school attendance is 94.6%. I have this week compared our current data to that of 8 local schools - we are currently one of the lowest.

Please help us to provide your child with the best possible educational opportunities and support our drive and determination to improve attendance by ensuring that your child attends school every single day that they are fit to do so for the remainder of this academic year - every day really does count.

Kind regards

Vicky Barron & Lynsey Willis

(Head teacher & Attendance Governor)