



# Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Sarah Gordon-Weeks – Principal

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## Attendance Newsletter Term 3

Welcome back to school in 2024! We were really pleased to see the children attending on time and wearing correct uniform on the first day of term.

The new year is a great opportunity to remind pupils that they can have 100% attendance from this point on, every term is a new start. The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent children in Key stage 2 achieved expected key stage 2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.

The UK Government is encouraging school attendance with their new campaign '**moments matter, attendance counts**'. You have hopefully seen the posters for this around the school. The aim of this campaign is to try and prevent avoidable absences - for minor illnesses or minor worries.



### Attendance letters

In term 2 we sent attendance letters to parents/carers whose child had less than 90% attendance and found that attendance improved following this. We will be sending these letters again, to inform parents if their child's attendance has dropped below 90%.

If your child's attendance has dropped below 80%, you will be invited in for an attendance meeting so that we can support you and your child. If you are worried about your child's attendance, please feel free to come and speak to a member of the leadership team for support at any time.

### Holidays

We would like to remind you about the Holiday Warning letter that we sent on 5th September 2023, which is available on our website in the 'letters to parents' section.

Any application for a planned term-time absence must be made in writing to the Principal, Sarah Gordon-Weeks. We **do not** authorise any time off for term-time holidays and any families taking term-time holidays will be referred to Oxfordshire County Council for a penalty notice. We find that this practice ensures fairness for all. Please see our whole school letter for more information [here](#).

### Contacting the school

If your child is unable to attend, it is very important that you contact the school by 09.00. If a child is absent without contact being made, the office staff will contact you to find out the reason for absence. If we cannot contact the main parents/carers, we will contact everyone on the contact list. In the unusual event that we cannot make contact with anyone, we may conduct a home visit to make sure everything is ok.

### We are here to help!

Sometimes children have worries about coming to school, some families may find it difficult to find transport or physically get their child to school. Katy Bennett, our Welfare and Inclusion Manager is always available to support families with any issue. You can contact Katy by calling 01295 263240 or by coming into the office.

Thank you for your support.