

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

GREEN HAWORTH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, ACCRINGTON, BB5 3SQ

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Friday 11 September

Dear parents,

Penalty notices are issued for **unauthorised absence during term time**. The following rules and fines apply:

- *Penalty notices issued for offences will be charged at a rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.*
- *Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.*
- *The threshold at which a penalty notice must be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period. **This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes.** The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.*
- *A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).*

Nationally, overall **school attendance** has not recovered to the pre-pandemic average of 96%. Last year, nationally it was 92.99%. Our school attendance has been historically good.

However, last year, it was 92.96% which was a drop from the previous year of **94.1%**. 94% is, historically, the floor level of what is considered acceptable.

Schools are measured on their attendance figures as well as their attainment and test results. So when we do not achieve certain percentages the LCC attendance consultants, DfE and Ofsted expect to see improvements. Please take the time to read the following information and help us to continue to improve:

If your child is absent from school

Please contact Mrs. Little or leave a school answerphone message to explain the absence before close of registers at 9.20am on the first day. If you do not do this, the absence will be classed as unauthorised. If a child has more than 5 school days lost to unauthorised absence in a single term or 10 days lost to unauthorised absence in consecutive terms, Lancashire County Council may issue a penalty notice of £120 per parent per child. You can read the school attendance policy on the school website at

<http://www.greenhaworth.co.uk/policies/>

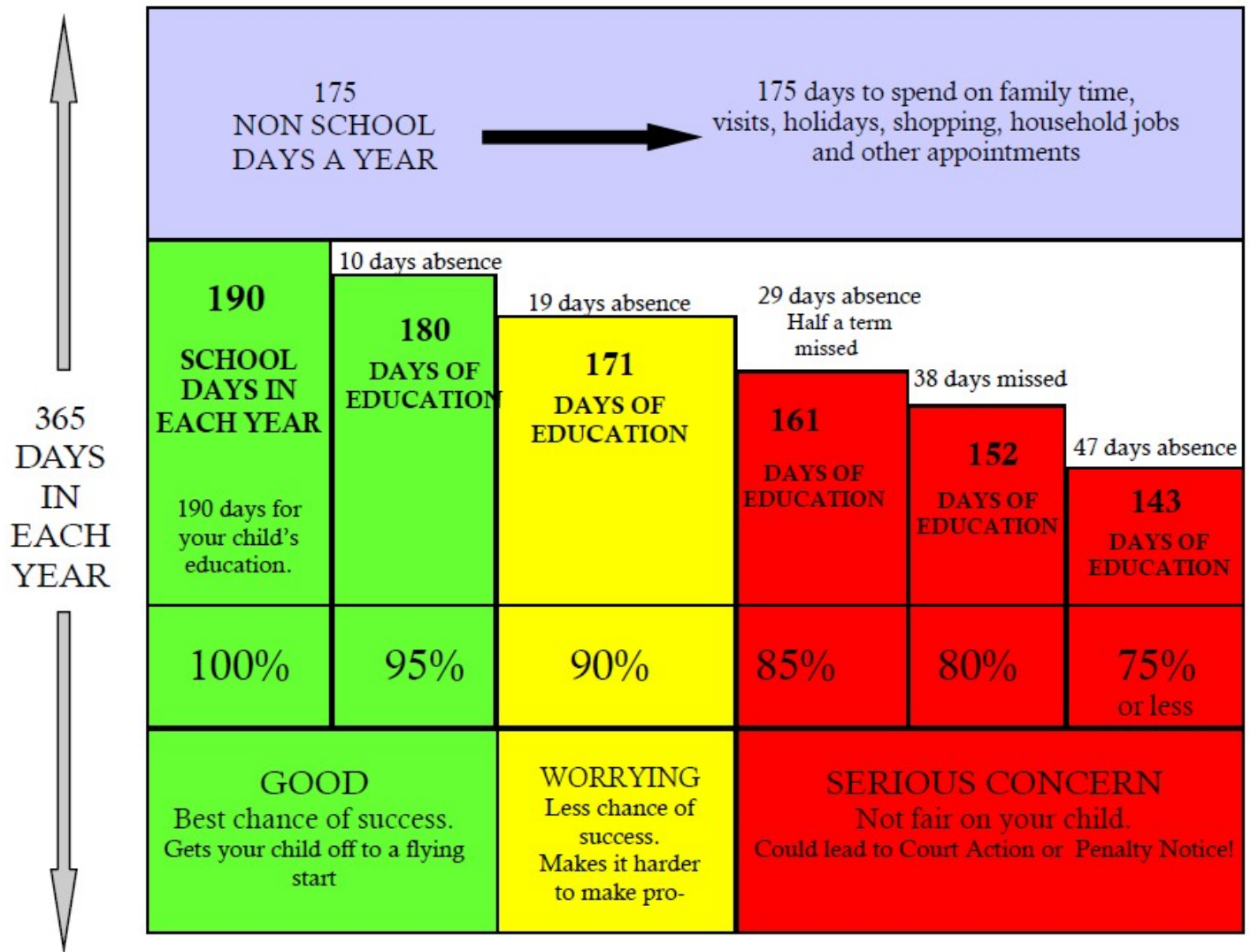
Please note that we will now ask to see evidence that a child has a medical appointment during the school day. Failure to provide this will result in an unauthorised absence.

Please note the following information: If you are running late and you have not contacted school by 9.20am, your child will not have a school dinner ordered.

Reducing Illness Days

- When a child has a day off we must be notified by a parent or carer as to why. This can be a note or a telephone call. A child returning to school after an absence will be marked as unauthorised absence unless we receive a valid explanation.
- If your child is saying they do not feel well and you are unsure about whether it warrants a day off, please send them to school. If they are truly ill, we will ring you.
- Use common sense when deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school. Ask yourself the following questions:
 - Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day?
 - Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff?
 - Would I take a day off work if I had this condition?
- If your child has to have a medical or dental appointment in school time, please do your best to have it after 1: 00pm and then your child can have their registration mark for the afternoon before you pick them up. If it needs to be a morning appointment, please try and bring them to school first to get their mark and then return them to school afterwards.

The NHS has a guide for parents entitled, 'is my child too ill for school?' <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> (click link)



Your child deserves an education. Every day really does count.

Please make the best effort possible to ensure your children attend school for the remainder of the academic year.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. P. Turner
Headteacher

Through God's love, we care, share and grow together

