



West Kingsdown Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr B Hulme

Monday, 8th March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

RE: School Attendance and Punctuality

At West Kingsdown Church of England Primary School we are very grateful for the support of all parents and carers who ensure that their children attend school regularly and punctually.

As I am sure you are already aware, attendance and attainment are very closely linked and the national expected minimum attendance rate for primary school pupils is 96%, which is just seven days' absence from school during the academic year. I am very pleased to note that many of our pupils already have excellent attendance and punctuality as this allows our teachers the best possible opportunity to support pupils in reaching their full potential.

At West Kingsdown we have high expectations and would like all of our pupils to aim for 100% attendance so that they have access to every learning opportunity available to them.

To help us promote regular attendance and punctuality and to ensure that absence is kept to an absolute minimum, I am pleased to inform you that we will be working with South Eastern Attendance Advisory Service (SEAAS) who will provide the school with focused support to improve and maintain a high level of attendance. With immediate effect, SEAAS will work on behalf of West Kingsdown C of E Primary School to address all attendance concerns including lateness and holidays in term time.

From 8th March 2021, all children should return to school to minimize, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Therefore, school attendance will be mandatory again. This means from 8th March 2021, the usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly and punctually at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age.
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

If you have concerns about any issues which may affect your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school in the usual way or you may also contact Mrs. Alison Smith from SEAAS at alisonsmith@seaas.co.uk or on 07539-101804.

I look forward to your continued support in this unprecedented time.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. B. Hulme
Headteacher