



# Hoole Church of England Primary School

## Attendance Newsletter

### March 2024

#### Punctuality Counts

Representatives from the Punctuality & Attendance Crew (PAC) have spoken to our school family recently about the importance of arriving at school on time. We open our gates at 8.30am to enable children to have some social time with their friends and classmates. This helps pupils to settle into the day before learning starts.

When children enter their classrooms at 8.45am, learning starts. Children begin learning challenges and tasks linked to the development of basic skills including handwriting, spelling and times tables. In our younger classes, children start phonics lessons at 9am.

**It is vital that children arrive on time to make the most of these social and learning opportunities.**

We have noticed that where children arrive later, they often appear flustered and take longer to get settled into learning.

*We asked children how it feels to arrive in their classroom later than others. Their comments are shown below:*

If you come into class late and everyone else is sitting down, it makes you feel awkward and embarrassed.

Coming in late makes me feel worried in case I have missed something.

I don't like being late to school. When you come in everyone else is there ready. It is not a good start to the day.

Being late makes me feel all flustered and unsure.

#### Morning Timings

Gates open at 8.30am. At 8.45am, the whistle is blown to show the start of the school day. School gates close at 8.50am. Children arriving after this time will be recorded coming through the school office.

Registers close at 9am and lessons start promptly.

Children arriving between 9am and 9.20am are marked as Late (L code). Where children arrive after X, the U code is recorded. The U Code lowers the child's overall attendance percentage.

### Busy Morning Checklist

One of our Year 6 pupils has recently developed and trialled a checklist designed to help children to be prepared to leave the house on time in the morning. The checklist helps to build positive habits in organising uniform and essential items rather than leaving it to the last minute, which can cause stress and frustration. Copies are available from the school office if your child would like to try this for themselves.

In addition, Mrs Robertson can help to develop specific checklists and reward charts with children or families on an individual basis. We have seen real success from Mrs Robertson's charts, which help to address issues causing stress in a really positive way. If you would like help from Mrs Robertson, let us know.

### Holidays in Term-Time

Families may be aware that there is a national focus on improving school attendance. The Department for Education recently announced a range of measures to address attendance related issues, including holidays during term-time. The penalty for holidays during term-time is set to increase from £60 to £80 per parent, per child (if paid within 21 days). If payment is delayed, the penalty increases from £120 to £180 per parent, per child.

**I would stress that we take absolutely no pleasure in issuing fines for holidays during term-time. Fines are paid to the Local Authority and not to individual schools.**

However, we are bound by national policy and local agreements, and so, where applicable, we do have to apply penalties for holidays during term-time.

**Please help us to avoid having to issue penalties by avoiding holidays during term-time.**

### Attendance 'Slam Dunk' Competition

Congratulations to Team 6R, the winners of our first attendance 'Slam Dunk' competition. Following on from this basketball themed competition, we are holding the Hoole Attendance Regatta this half term.

Weekly progress in the regatta is shown on the display in the main entrance of school.

### Team Attendance Percentages - School Year So Far

Attendance percentages for each class are shown below. Thank you for ensuring that your child maintains a positive record of attendance and punctuality.

Team	Team Attendance for Year	Team	Team Attendance for Year
RM	96.4%	3WK	96.6%
RJ	97.1%	4SJ	95.4%
1WS	96.5%	4K	96.5%
1H	95.5%	5S	96.8%
2EI	96%	5M	95%
2C	95.4%	6R	96.1%
3U	96.7%	6B	96.4%

For any advice or support relating to attendance and punctuality, please contact Mrs Robertson (elainerobertson@hooleprimary.cheshire.sch.uk) or Ms Williamson (colettewilliamson@hooleprimary.cheshire.sch.uk).