



# St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton

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Headteacher: Mrs J Burgess  
*We follow in Christ's footsteps*

29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

## Absences

Due to the pandemic and necessary lockdowns over the last couple of years, our pupils have missed out on access to school. Unfortunately, Covid remains an issue.

I know you are supporting us to limit transmission by continuing with self-isolation if your child does have Covid. We ask you to continue to do this until the local authority advice changes. We all understand the need for this.

That said, if your child is not suffering from Covid/self-isolating and is otherwise well (48 hours needed for sickness/diarrhoea), they should be in school. Please arrange any medical appointments after the school day wherever possible. If that is not possible, we will need proof of appointment. Please do not arrange any holidays during the school term as they will not be authorised and they will disrupt your child's learning further.

Attached is your child's individual attendance record. Our school target for each child is 97%.

It is worth noting:

- if your child's attendance is below 95%, that is the equivalent of missing part of a morning or afternoon session every week;
- if your child's attendance is below 90%, that is the equivalent of missing a full morning or afternoon session each week.

If you would like to talk to us about ways to improve your child's attendance, please contact the school office to make an appointment.

We monitor attendance weekly. If we have not contacted you already, and your child's attendance is low and this is showing no signs of improvement, we will be in touch to offer additional support and advice with a view to making a swift and positive difference. A referral may also be made to the local authority if low attendance (without due cause) remains a problem.

**IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY IN READING OR INTERPRETING THIS DOCUMENT PLEASE CALL 01207 570316**



Moving forward, you will be surprised how quickly low attendance figures can improve with every day in school.

### **Punctuality**

School is open from 8.45am and teachers will begin certain activities at this time. I appreciate we have a flexible arrival time until 8.55am. It is becoming increasingly noticeable, however, that some children are arriving late consistently. I would urge all parents to aim to arrive with pupils at 8.45 am so that everyone is in class and seated when the register is taken at 8.55am, otherwise your child will be marked as late. Consistent late comers prevent the teacher making a prompt start with formal teaching at 8.55am. This is a problem for teachers and for other pupils and is becoming increasingly frustrating. Class timetables are very tightly planned to ensure all pupils get through the necessary work.

If your child has been invited to an intervention activity before school, they should arrive in good time at 8.40am.

It is worth noting:

- if your child is even 5 minutes late consistently each day, that is the equivalent of almost half an hour each week of lost learning;
- if that continues over a month, they are roughly 2 hours behind their peers in learning time.

I understand, during the pandemic, parents may have sometimes had the view of 'not knowing what to do for the best'. Always ring the school office if you are unsure and we will do all we can to help. Sometimes absence will be unavoidable, but we need to keep that to an absolute minimum to give our pupils the best chance of catching up! Thank you, as ever, for your on-going support.

Kind regards

Mrs Burgess

Headteacher

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