



# UPLANDS MANOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

## RE: School Attendance Concerns

I am writing to you about school absence and the challenge that all schools, including Uplands Manor, have faced since the pandemic and to ask you help in improving our school's attendance.

**Today, a normal Wednesday in the first week back after a one-week half term break, 5.6% of our children are absent from school, making our attendance only 94.4% for the day.**

This includes 13 children who have not returned to school as they are currently out of the country on unauthorised leaves of absence.

We have become used to these statistics despite them being unacceptable, and unfortunately this pattern of absence is not unusual at our school. **Our school's attendance is below that of lots of other schools nationally and locally**, and is currently only 93.8% against a target of 96%.

- *Missing one week of school for a family holiday or trip abroad taken in term time will mean that your child has missed 25+ hours of learning new things that they may not be taught again but will have to apply and build upon in future learning.*
- *Having broken attendance (a day off every week or fortnight, or random days) means that children will miss 5+ hours of new learning each time and may struggle to understand the work they do in following lessons because lessons are taught in sequence and rely on prior learning and knowledge.*

There is a proven link between absence from school and future exam results and academic outcomes. Put simply, **children who miss school regularly reduce their lifetime earning potential because they do not achieve as well as their peers in exams and qualifications.** It also instils poor habits to take into the future workplace, where high levels of absence, poor punctuality or an indifferent attitude to responsibility can impact on employability.

**Whilst at primary school, instilling good habits and ensuring good punctuality and attendance are the responsibility of the parents and carers, not the children, and I ask for your support in helping to improve attendance and life chances for our children at Uplands Manor.**

**Please can I ask that you take immediate action to address any punctuality or attendance concerns in relation to your child, and ask school for support if you are struggling with your child in any way. We expect for all children to be in school, on time, every day.**

Yours faithfully

Mr A Dickinson  
Head Teacher