



27.09.23

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Information for all parents and carers on the importance of attendance.**

As we are full steam ahead into our Autumn term, it is a good opportunity to write to you all with a reminder of how we can continue to work together on ensuring excellent attendance in school.

Over the last three years, attendance in schools has fluctuated and overall, school attendance nationally is now much lower than it was before the pandemic. We know and are understanding of the many factors that contribute to this. However, excellent attendance is vitally important; it is recognised that poor school attendance limits educational achievement and the future progress of young people. Being in school not only supports your child academically, excellent attendance will also support them socially and emotionally. We also want all students to be in school, we miss them when they are not! Below is a link with a message from the Chief Medical Officer and other health leaders, which schools have been asked to share with parents/carers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-school-leaders-on-mild-illness-and-school-attendance/letter-to-school-leaders-on-mild-illness-and-school-attendance>

Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child receives a suitable full-time education. Parents are responsible for making sure their child attends school daily and arrives on time. If a child's attendance is less than 90%, this is deemed as persistently absent and is a cause for concern. This is when school and home need to work together on supporting children to come to school. We want to support you to improve this; it is important to us that nobody ever feels alone on the journey.

We are always grateful to parents and carers that stay in regular contact with us if their child is absent from school. There are many reasons why your child may be absent, and it is important to highlight how attendance can be affected:

- *Illness*: this is an authorised absence but will still count towards absence figures.
- *Unauthorised absences*: holidays in term time count towards this as well as the school not being informed as to why a child is absent.
- *Being late to school*: if a child arrives in school after registration has finished, they are classed as late and this consequently effects their attendance. It is important that your child arrives in school at 8.30am each day. Being late can be a very unsettling start to the day for some children.

We ask that you continue to communicate with us if your child is absent and make us aware if you feel the

school can support you with minimising absence from school. A child's absence figure can be for many reasons: illnesses, anxieties, family circumstances, home issues and many others reasons. We never judge; we work together and support the pupils in school, so they feel content, safe and happy.

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss your child's attendance or any absences, your first point of contact would be your child's Form Tutor.

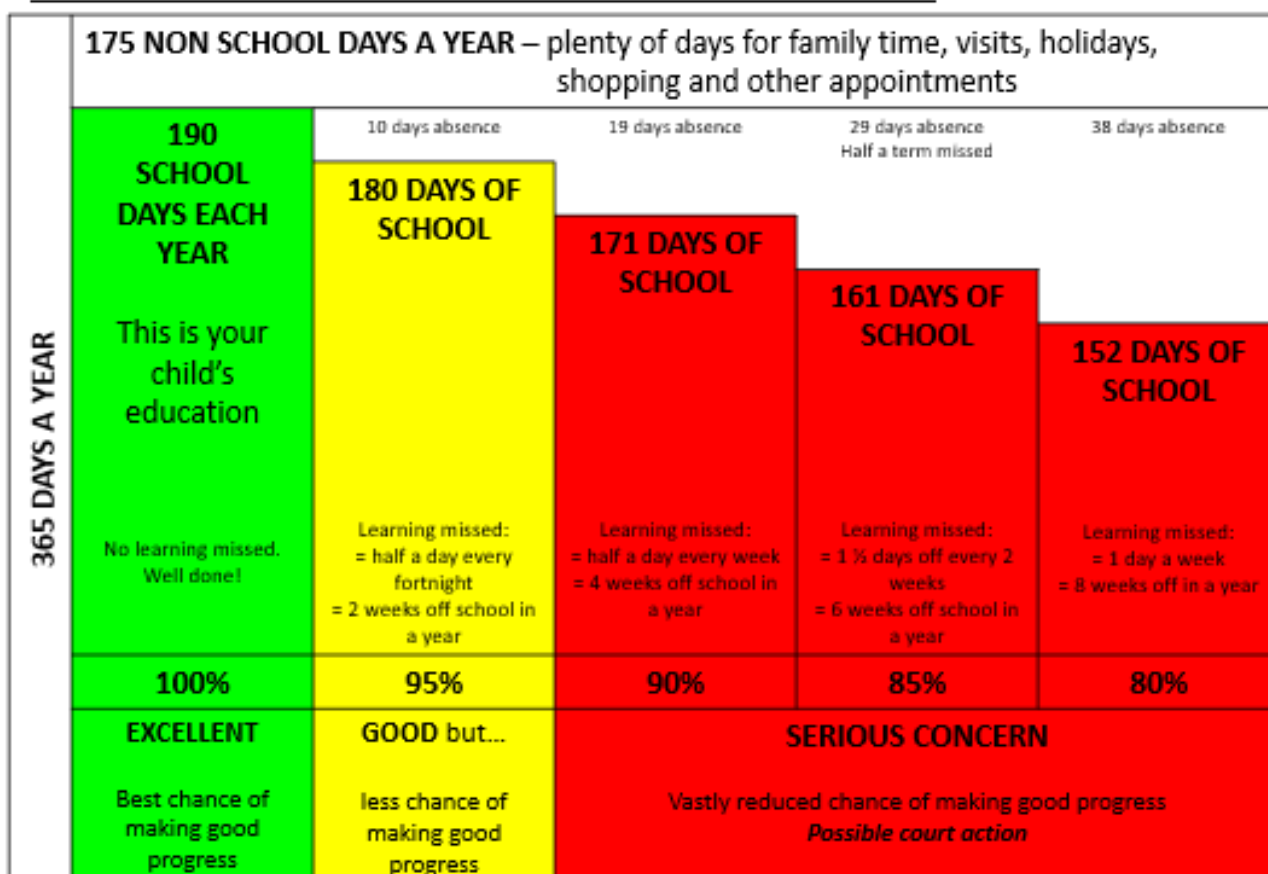
As always, we thank you for your support,

Kind regards

*C Stripp*

Mrs C Stripp  
Associate Headteacher  
Attendance and Admissions

## St Osmund's CE Middle School Attendance



Head of School: Mr G Biddle BSc NPQH  
St Osmund's CE Middle School A Church of England Academy  
Barnes Way, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2DZ  
Tel: 01305 262897  
Email: [office@stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk)

Leadership Team  
Mr S Beet BA  
Mrs C Carter-Miles BSc NASENCO  
Mrs S Farmer BA  
Mrs R Gollgedge DSBM

