

Pupil Attendance at Limehurst Primary School - Summer Newsletter



As we reach the end of the academic year, this is our final Attendance Newsletter for 2024/25 and we wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on our school's attendance and share some important information with parents and carers.

End of Year statistics

- ✚ **Whole School Attendance** - Our overall attendance percentage has risen to **94.5%**, showing a positive improvement from last year's figure of **93%**.
- ✚ **Benchmarking Comparison** - Comparing our figures to recently published benchmarking data - the National Average (England) is **94.8%** and the Local average (Oldham) is **94.7%**. Our attendance is now only slightly below both benchmarks which is a notable step forward from last year!
- ✚ **Persistent Absence** - According to government guidance, a child is considered persistently absent if their attendance falls below 90%. At Limehurst, approximately **18.9%** of pupils have been identified as persistent absentees this year - meaning they have missed more than 19 days of school. While this is a slight improvement compared to last year, persistent absence remains an area for development. The average persistent absentee rate across Oldham primary schools is 14.6%, indicating that Limehurst's rate is notably higher than the local average.
- ✚ **Class Attendance** - Among our twelve classes, only two have reached our class target of 95% attendance - **well done to pupils in classes 6 and 9!** Class 9 led the way with an impressive 97% attendance and celebrated with a well-earned class party!
- ✚ **100% Attendance** - We've continued our termly prize draws for pupils with 100% attendance, awarding 'One4All' vouchers to the winners. Well done to all pupils who received an attendance reward this year!

Thank you for your support in helping us work towards our improved attendance goal.

While we've made encouraging progress, further improvement is needed to ensure all pupils benefit from consistent school attendance.

Support and Action

We will continue to run our Attendance Improvement Project throughout the 2025/26 academic year, with a focus on reducing persistent absence and achieving attendance levels in line with both local and national averages.

By ensuring your child attends school every day you can support us to improve pupil attendance and reduce persistent absenteeism in our school.

We aim to create a positive attendance culture by ;

- ✚ **Parent meetings** - We will continue to hold attendance meetings with parents. These meetings aim to create personalised attendance action plans for ALL pupils whose attendance falls below expectations.
- ✚ **Support Early Intervention** - If your child faces difficulties attending school, please get in touch with us. We're here to support you and together we can look for solutions.
- ✚ **Sharing regular updates** - we will be sharing insights, tips and success stories via our website, email and social media channels.
- ✚ **Celebrating good attendance** - we will be positively rewarding good attendance and attendance improvement.

**ATTENDANCE
MATTERS**

Reminder - Leave of Absence During Term Time

- ✚ From September 2024, **the fine for unauthorised school absences for 5 days or more** increased to **£80** if paid within 21 days, or **£160** if paid within 28 days. This is a fine per parent, per child.
- ✚ In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.
- ✚ Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.
- ✚ If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

Kindly be aware that if your child is on our attendance monitoring list and you do not provide medical evidence for their absence, their non-attendance will be marked as unauthorised. Prior to this becoming the case for your child, you will receive a 'Stage 1 AND 2' notification letter

We look forward to working together in the coming year to improve pupil attendance at Limehurst and ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive!

What to do When...

- ✚ **Your child has a medical appointment mid-morning which cannot be changed** - Bring them into school in the morning, collect them just before the appointment and bring them back to school straight afterwards. Show the office staff evidence of the appointment (letter/email or text).
- ✚ **Your child says they feel unwell but are showing no other signs of illness** - Bring them into school but let us know - we will inform you if we feel they need to be collected.
- ✚ **Your child has a sickness bug** - Keep them off school for 48 hours from the last episode of sickness. We do not want the bug to spread.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is a great way to promote punctuality and start your child's day in a positive way.

Breakfast club sessions are priced at £1 per day. You have flexibility in how you book and pay for these sessions:

- Monthly: Reserve slots for the entire month.
- Weekly: Book sessions for specific weeks.
 - Daily: Book on a day-by-day basis.

You can book your child into a session up to 8:00am on the same day, using the School Comms app.

Let's Make Everyday Count!