



St John's Church of England First School

St John's Hill, Wimborne, BH21 1BX

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Tel: 01202 883675

Head of School: Katharine Anstey

14th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year, attendance has been identified as an area for whole school improvement. The national figure for attendance (2016) is 96.1%. At St John's our attendance figure for last year was 95.5%. It is essential that this improves this year and it is through your support for the school and working in partnership with us that we can work together to see this figure increase.

We work in close partnership with Wimborne Academy Trust and the local authority which recognises elements of good practice in schools, this includes:

- **Setting good habits early** - All schools need to help pupils establish regular, punctual attendance from the start. It is important that parents are involved in this process from the beginning of a child's schooling.
- **Early Intervention** - At St John's we will share with all families attendance rates at termly parent consultation meetings and write to families where absence rates are causing a concern. We will work with parents to improve attendance levels.
- **Rewarding** - We will share positive recognition of individual pupils and year group achievements in attendance. Each week we will share with children and families each class's attendance figures and celebrate this.

All requests for absence from school must be made in writing to the school (emails will not be accepted) as far in advance as possible. This will be followed by an invitation to meet personally with the Attendance leader to discuss the reasons for the absence and the implications this will have upon the child's learning and the class.

In line with Department of Education regulations, no holiday will be authorised in term time unless there are genuinely exceptional circumstances. For 10 or more half day sessions of unauthorised absence within a 12 school week period a fixed penalty notice may be issued.

Our guidance outlines that every child should be in school every day for every lesson, allowing our children to achieve their full potential. At St John's we are passionate that we make the most of every moment in school and therefore any absence from school will mean a child missing important learning opportunities.

We ask that parents consider the impact holidays during term time could have on their child's education. There is evidence that missing school can lower academic achievement and will interrupt the learning of the whole class with teachers having to spend time helping children catch up when they return. One of our top priorities is enabling children to have the very best start in life, and a major part of that is education.

WIMBORNE
Academy Trust



National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Allenbourn Middle School Colehill First School Hayeswood First School Merley First School
St John's First School St Michael's Middle School Witchampton First School

I would like to thank you for supporting the school in improving our attendance figures. If you have any comments or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Anstey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Mrs K Anstey
Head of School