



Attendance Support Team Parent Newsletter (Autumn)

Sharing news and updates to parents from the Attendance Support Team



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the 2025/2026 academic year! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer break.

As we begin this new school year, we want to thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's education and well-being.



WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Every day at school is an opportunity for your child to learn, grow, and thrive. High attendance is directly linked to better academic achievement, stronger social skills, and improved mental health. That's why we're working together with you, your child's school, health services, and the community to ensure that your child has **No Limits on Learning** and that they get the best start each day this academic year.

Following the Department for Education's "Working Together to Improve School Attendance" guidance, we're focusing on proactive and supportive approaches to help families overcome any barriers to regular attendance.



SUPPORT AVAILABLE IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON

We know that sometimes families face challenges that make regular attendance difficult. Whether it's health, housing, routines, or other issues – help is available. Here are just a few of the services offering support to Sutton families:

- Family Support Service – Practical help for parents, including parenting advice, housing support, and help with routines.
- Sutton Educational Welfare Service – Working with families and schools to tackle attendance concerns early.
- Sutton Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) – Support for children and young people facing emotional or mental health challenges.
- Sutton Family Information Service – A central hub for finding local childcare, health, education, and financial support.

Visit www.sutton.gov.uk or contact your child's school for more information or a referral.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING: KNOW WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

We understand that illness can sometimes impact attendance. The NHS provides clear guidance on common childhood illnesses and whether children need to stay home. Often, children can still attend school with mild symptoms like a cold or sore throat.

For trusted advice, visit the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school
If in doubt, speak with your GP or contact your child's school nurse for advice – help is available.



When should my child return to school?

Chicken Pox When all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis None*	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever None*	Hand, foot & mouth None*	Impetigo When lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies After first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek None*	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice None*	Threadworms None*	Tonsillitis None*		

*No need to stay off, but school and nursery should be informed.



WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF MISSING SCHOOL?

Attendance is linked with achievement. Research shows that missing 17 school days negatively impacted on a child's GCSE results. For some children, this could be the difference between passing or not passing and then having to retake their GCSE in college or getting the grade required to get into the further education course of their choice or not.



HOW CAN I SUPPORT AND IMPROVE MY CHILD'S ATTENDANCE?

To support your child's regular attendance at school, you can do the following things to help:

- Make medical and dental appointments outside of school hours, such as during the holidays, at the end of a school day.
- Do not take holidays in term time. Children who miss school because of holidays miss essential lessons. You must get holiday requests authorised before you book a holiday; otherwise, you risk your child being marked as having unauthorised absence, and you may be fined.
- Only allow time off when your child is too unwell to be at school (**see the NHS guide above for more information**).
- Praise and encourage good attendance with your child and promote the benefits of being at school.
- Implement positive bedtime and morning routines, make sure your child is organised for school the night before by ensuring they have their bag packed, PE kit ready, homework completed and alarm set.
- Make sure your alarm clock is set in good time.

Let's Work Together – Every Day Matters

We're here to work with you to make sure your child gets the most from their education. If you have concerns or need support with attendance, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's school – they are there to listen and help.

Together, let's make 2025/26 a year of strong attendance, great progress, and new possibilities for every child in Sutton.



No Limits on Learning!

