



STEPHEN FREEMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Everybody; Every Moment; Every Idea Counts"

Attendance Newsletter

October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first Attendance Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight the importance of attendance and punctuality. **At Stephen Freeman School we have been working really hard to raise attendance levels and to reduce the instances of lateness.** This is being monitored very closely—by us a school, by our governing body, by our local authority. The expectation is for school attendance to be 97%. Currently our school attendance—at 95% - falls below this. Although this does actually sound like quite a high percentage, this actually equates to 2 whole weeks of learning lost.

The vast majority of our families achieve an attendance level of at least 96%, however, where families do not achieve a satisfactory level of attendance we will discuss this with you and see how we can support you to improve.

We do appreciate that children get ill from time to time – but there are primary schools in the UK achieving an overall level of attendance as high as 98% - well above the national average. **We hope you can support us in achieving our target — we can only do it with your support!**

There is much evidence to show that good attendance plays a vital role in helping children achieve their full potential. We also know that poor attendance can lead to other problems for children.

Children who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Fall behind in their school work
- Find it difficult to make and keep friends
- Be unhappy at school
- Misbehave so that others cannot see they are finding the work difficult
- Learn poor behaviour habits that follow through into secondary school and employment.

Celebrating Good Attendance

Firstly, and most importantly, a BIG well done and thank you to the **222 pupils who managed to get a 100% attendance certificate for Autumn Term 1**. 100% attendance really is a great achievement – and I'm sure those pupils and many more will aspire to reach this again!

In total, **243 children in school achieved our target of 97%** (that's 59% of children in school) so a big pat on the back to those children too. Well done!

Class Attendance Term 1

1st	Yr 3 India	98.15%
2nd	Yr 2 Argentina	97.92%
3rd	Yr 5 South Africa	97.6%
4th	Yr 1 Brazil	97.06%
5th	Rec Poland	96.93%
6th	Yr 3 Nepal	95.79%
7th	Rec UK	95.64%
8th	Yr 4 Japan	94.85%
9th	Yr 5 Egypt	94.75%
10th	Yr 1 Chilli	94.25%
11th	Yr 6 Kenya	93.98%
12th	Yr 2 Peru	93.82%
13th	Yr 6 Madagascar	93.78%
14th	Nursery explorers	92.37%
15th	Yr 4 China	92.18%

Attendance Reward

Well done to this term's winning classes:

KS2—India

KS1—Argentina

These two classes will have an extra play-time as a result of fantastic attendance this term. Which class will achieve this next term?

New Weekly Celebration

Next term we will be introducing a new weekly attendance **celebration for all children who achieve 100%**. Six names will be drawn from 'a hat'. The winning children will be invited for hot chocolate and biscuit with Miss Butler.

Some reminders...

- Parents/carers should ensure that family holidays and any term time leave are arranged outside of school term time. All requests for authorised absence will be responded to in writing and will only be authorised in the most extreme circumstances.
- If your child is too unwell to attend school then please notify the school office. If your child is absent without notification you will be contacted by telephone and asked to provide a reason for the absence.