



# STEPHEN FREEMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Everybody; Every Moment; Every Idea Counts"

## Attendance Newsletter

## January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

**We welcome you back and wish you all a very Happy New Year.** To start on a really positive note... Our whole school attendance figure for the Autumn Term 2018 (September—December) was 95.4%. This is a considerable improvement compared to the previous year, when the attendance figure was 92%.

**Well done** to all our families and children; it is so important that children are in school every day. **We now expect this figure to rise over the next term and continue to aim for the national expectation of 97% attendance.**

### Celebrating good attendance

At our end of term assembly, **114 children received 100% attendance certificates.** ( A big well done to all of those children—it was a very long term! ) **244 children achieved our target of 97% or above.**

**Friday afternoon 'hot chocolate and biscuits' treat with Miss Butler is going extremely well.**

Each week, six names of children (one from each year group 1-6) who have been at school every day are randomly selected. These children have really enjoyed this opportunity and it is one of the many highlights of Miss Butler's week! The children also enjoy drawing the 'new names' and announcing them in assembly.

**The two classes with the highest attendance during Term 2: KS2 India (again) and KS1 Chile . An extra playtime for these two classes. Great achievement!**

### Class Attendance Term 2

1st	Yr 3 India	97.1%
2nd	Yr 1 Chile	97.05%
3rd	Yr 3 Nepal	96.83%
4th	Yr 4 Japan	96.81%
5th	Yr 2 Peru	96.75%
6th	Yr 1 Brazil	95.95%
7th	Yr 2 Argentina	95.7%
8th	Yr 6 Madagascar	95.24%
9th	Yr 4 China	95.07%
10th	Yr 5 South Africa	94.37%
11th	Rec UK	94.01%
12th	Yr 5 Egypt	93.84%
13th	Rec Poland	93.6%
14th	Nursery explorers	92.38%
15th	Yr 6 Kenya	91.87%

## Late Gates

Did you see our County Attendance Liaison Officer, Ashaa Rathod, at our school gates last term? Ashaa is supporting our school to raise our attendance figures . As well as meeting some of our families, Ashaa was there to hand out leaflets and to remind everybody about the importance of being in school on time in the morning. **Remember, being just 10 minutes late for school every day equates to nearly 7 days of school across the year missed!**

## Our Attendance Policy

Please do take the time to read our school attendance policy, which can be found on our school website. There is a very clear procedure about the process that needs to happen if your child is absent from school. A quote from the policy: *A pupil becomes a 'persistent absentee' (PA) when they miss 10% or more schooling across the school year **for whatever reason**. Absence at this level is doing considerable damage to any child's educational prospects and we need parents' fullest support and co-operation to tackle this.*

## Penalty Notices

Inline with our School Attendance Policy, and with advice from our Governing Body and Oxfordshire County Council, we would like to remind parents that penalty notices can—and will—be issued by local authority if your child has over six unauthorised absences.

**Remember...** the attendance of each child in school, including the Foundation Stage, is tracked very carefully by school, the Governors and Local Authority.

**Let's continue working really well together to continue to improve our school attendance.**

## Some reminders...

- Parents/carers should ensure that family holidays and any term time leave are arranged outside of school term time. **Keep in mind that penalty notices may be issued.** 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.