



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with regards to the Attendance celebration on Friday 21st October which I am aware a small number of parents have concerns about.

You will be know from the information you have received in July and at the start of the year, improving attendance is a priority for not only us as a school but also at local and national level. The Department for Education guidance for schools details the responsibilities of schools and local authorities in achieving this. This guidance includes sanctions such as fining parents where attendance is in breach of the expected level but it also includes discussion about the importance of celebrating excellent attendance.

Every year, pupils who have reached 100% attendance at the end of each half term have received a reward. These have included chocolates and sweets, activity packs to take home and also craft sessions in school. These have always been in recognition of those pupils who have achieved 100% attendance and are in no way a punishment to those who have not. This year is no different. We recognise how hard it is to achieve 100% attendance, especially in Autumn when there are lots of illnesses in circulation. That is why it is a great achievement for anyone that has managed it. This is also why each half term the count starts again and all children have the opportunity to gain 100% in the next half term.

Tomorrow's event is a celebration and not a punishment. Our pupils are always fantastic at celebrating the achievements of their peers. In terms of numbers there are many more pupils who have not achieved 100% attendance than those who have. Therefore there will be more children in school uniform than their own clothes.

The children have been embracing the focus on attendance each week with additional play times for KS2 classes with the highest attendance and stickers for weekly attendance in Key Stage 1. The rewards each half term change and have been designed in consultation with the children. In the summer term, all children were involved in discussions about the rewards they would like to see for various aspects of school life such as attendance and house team rewards. Through these discussions, which were fed back to the school council, the children voted to have a non-uniform day as the reward for this half term. This



is not an unusual choice for children to make and is not unique to our school as it is a reward other schools also use.

In the next half term all children have the opportunity to gain 100% attendance and a different celebration will take place. This again will be in consultation with the pupils. We welcome the suggestions and contributions of parents. That is why we hold our parent forum sessions where parents are invited to come along and hear more about developments in school and contribute to these developments. Sadly, our forum this week was not well attended. I would therefore encourage any parent who wishes to be involved to come along to our forum in the next half term.

Mrs Driver
Head of School

