



Joy Lane Primary School

A Love of Learning, for Life, for All

Oyster Bay Nursery & Oysters SRP (ASD)

Executive Headteacher: Ms D J Hines

Head of School: Mr M Ashley-Jones



Dear Parents and Carers

I thought it would be an excellent time to write to you with a reminder and update on the importance of regular attendance at Joy Lane Primary School and provide you with some very current facts and figures with regards to attendance and what we are aiming for as we start the New Year.

I do not wish to go over the obvious importance of regular school attendance and how parents have a legal duty to ensure that their children attend school regularly and arrive on time, but I would like to remind you that the school Attendance Policy can be accessed by pressing the 'Parents' tab, followed by the 'Attendance' tab on the school website. All relevant information with regards to attendance, parental responsibility and the role of Joy Lane Staff and the School Liaison Officer can be found here.

I am sure you will agree that excellent attendance is fundamental to a successful and fulfilling school experience, and you know that we actively promote 100% attendance for all our pupils using a variety of awards and celebrating good attendance on a regular basis. For the majority of our families, attendance and punctuality is vitally important, and I would like to thank you for valuing your child's education and working in partnership with us. However, I am extremely concerned that the attendance data at the end of Term 2 tells me that over 65 pupils have attendance below 90% (this figure includes holidays taken during term time), which the local authority and school class as persistent absenteeism.

If a child misses	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of school that's...
1 day per fortnight (90% attendance)	19 days per year	≈ 4 weeks per year	Nearly 1½ years
1 day per week (80% attendance)	38 days per year	≈ 8 weeks per year	Over 2½ years
2 days per week (60% attendance)	76 days per year	≈ 16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week (40% attendance)	days per year	≈ 24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

There are, of course, a number of reasons why there are so many pupils classed as persistently absent and the staff at Joy Lane work very closely and constructively with parents and agencies to encourage regular attendance at school. You will remember that when Ofsted paid us a visit at the end of term 1 they were complimentary about recent improvements in overall attendance:



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'Leaders' continuous focus on ensuring that all pupils attend well has ensured steady improvement in pupils' attendance since the previous inspection. As a result, attendance rates in 2017 were much closer to the national average than in previous years, with further improvement in attendance rates in 2018. Leaders, however, are not complacent. They rightly recognise the importance of sustaining and building on the successes of recent years so that pupils achieve as well as they should throughout the school. Leaders will not be satisfied until all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils, attend regularly.' Ofsted 2018

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the attendance team at Joy Lane comprises of myself, Mrs Cruttenden (Attendance Officer), Mrs Allen (Family Liaison Officer - attendance) and Mrs Baker (Family Liaison Officer - attendance). Please do not be offended if one of us calls up to query absence or to request a meeting in light of on-going concerns with regards to a lack of information or persistent absence.

Please remember that it is the parents' responsibility to contact the school on the first day their child is absent. This is a safeguarding issue so that all parties know that your child is safe. We will call if we don't hear from you. As a school we have a duty of care and we take guidance from the statutory DfE document 'Keeping children safe in education' updated in September 2018.

At Joy Lane we will continue to celebrate excellent individual and class attendance and promote the importance of regular school attendance whilst, like all schools both locally and nationally, continuing to challenge persistent absenteeism or unexplained absence as all children are entitled to their education.

Thank you for your continued support, and please do not hesitate to contact any of the attendance team if you have a concern, query or are in need of further support.

Yours sincerely

Mark Ashley Jones

Head of School