



Pudsey Bolton Royd Primary School

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To all parents and carers,

I am pleased to note that more pupils have attended school on a regular basis in the current academic year compared to last year. Children learn and grow, develop friendships, and forge positive relationships whilst at school, and through the efforts of parents and carers, pupils, and staff over the last year there has been a reduction in absence.

Despite the improvement in attendance this year, we have seen an increase in the number of pupils arriving at school after the registration period has finished. Children who arrive late to school not only miss out on the first lesson of the day, but can cause disruption to pupils in classrooms when they arrive and settle into their learning day. Governors firmly believe that children should arrive at school with sufficient time to allow them to settle into the day before the first lesson starts, and we ask that all parents and carers ensure that their children arrive at school before the start of the school day.

We have also seen an increase in the number of unauthorised absences due to family holidays - pupils have so far missed over 450 days of school in this academic year because of term-time holidays, compared to around 350 last year. I would like to reiterate that national regulations state that headteachers are not able to authorise leaves of absence during term time unless in 'exceptional circumstances'. This includes the period either side of school holidays. Governors fully support the actions taken by the headteacher to ensure good attendance at school and to take action where there are unsatisfactory or no reasons for absence.

On behalf of the governing body, thank you for your efforts over the last academic year to improve pupil attendance at school. We all can and should do more to ensure that pupils are present at school so that they are learning and achieving. Governors will have an increased focus on attendance in the next academic year, and we ask for your co-operation in ensuring your children arrive at school punctually and are not taken out of school for unauthorised term time holidays.

Chris Hudson
Chair of governors

