

28th March 2024

General messages about the importance of attendance

Dear Families,

Over the coming weeks and months, we will be working with families to discuss ways in which we can support and encourage improved attendance for individual children. Working with families in a supportive manner is our primary approach to improving children's attendance- working together for the best possible outcomes for children is what will ultimately lead to children coming to school happy, ready to learn and achieving their potential.

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness/worries (including anxiety) will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

We also know that pupils fall behind their friends and classmates when they miss school. At Bridge Schools we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our pupils in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

We also know that you can have a significant effect on your child's absences this academic year and we would really appreciate your help and support ensuring that your child comes to school every day so that they can get the best possible outcomes. We want to work with you to achieve this – please call or come in and meet your child's class teacher or Headteacher if there is anything we can do to support you or your child. We appreciate that every family's situation is unique.

We will be in touch again after Easter to update you with changes to the way we will be working or to request a meeting with you if we have ongoing concerns about your child's attendance and what the next steps may be.

Yours sincerely,
Bridge Schools Trust