



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin another exciting school year and we welcome our new Reception children, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to highlight the importance of regular school attendance.

At our school, we believe that every day matters. While we understand that children will occasionally need to be absent due to genuine illness or exceptional circumstances, attending school regularly gives children the very best chance to succeed both academically and personally.

Why is attendance so important?

Every lesson builds on previous learning. When children miss school, they can miss important explanations, teaching, discussions and opportunities to practise new skills. Even a small number of absences can add up over time and make it harder for children to keep pace with their learning.

Research from the Department for Education shows a clear link between attendance and attainment. Pupils with higher attendance are significantly more likely to achieve expected standards at Key Stage 2 and strong GCSE outcomes at Key Stage 4 than those with lower attendance. While we know that this seems an incredibly long way off for our children, good habits start here and will last throughout your child's school journey above and beyond Christchurch Infant School.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) also highlights the strong links between poor attendance, lower attainment and behavioural difficulties, emphasising that improving attendance is an important part of improving outcomes for all children. [\[educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\]](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/), [\[educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\]](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/)

Attendance and Social Development

School is about much more than academic learning. It is also where children develop friendships, learn to work collaboratively, build confidence and develop resilience.

The Department for Education states that attendance is vital for children's wellbeing, personal development and sense of belonging. Being in school every day helps children stay connected to their peers, participate in the wider life of the school and access support from trusted adults. Regular attendance also provides a stable routine that supports positive mental health and emotional wellbeing. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk/), [\[assets.publishing.service.gov.uk\]](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/)

When children miss school frequently, they can find it harder to maintain friendships, develop confidence in their learning and feel fully connected to their school community. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk/), [\[committees.parliament.uk\]](https://committees.parliament.uk/)

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Christchurch Infant School is a member of Twynham Learning,
a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 7565088.

Registered office: Sopers Lane, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 1JF.



Christchurch Infant School

Interim Chief Executive: Nick Watkiss
Headteacher: Miss Laura Tobin



How families can help

You play a vital role in supporting good attendance. Some simple ways to help include:

- Establishing consistent morning and bedtime routines.
- Arranging appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.
- Encouraging a positive attitude towards school.
- Contacting the school as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend.
- Speaking with us if there are any worries or barriers affecting your child's attendance.

We're here to support you

We recognise that families can face challenges that impact attendance, and we are committed to working together to help every child attend school regularly and thrive. If you are experiencing difficulties that may affect your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to listen, support and work with you to find solutions.

Thank you for your partnership in helping all children make the most of every learning opportunity. Together, we can ensure that every child has the best possible chance to achieve, grow and flourish.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Tobin and Mrs Goldsack

Headteacher and Pastoral Lead

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