

A message from Janey Cooksley, Principal of Briar Hill Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance Matters

As a parent/carer you want the very best for your children. Key to getting the best start in life is having a great education and that starts by attending school every day.

The smallest changes to attendance and punctuality – in either direction - make a huge difference a child's chances in life:

- a child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life
- 90% of young people that take 1 day in every 10 off school fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all

If your child has attendance levels of 96% or better it means that your child has a 'very good chance' of achieving GCSE grades at the higher levels of 9 – 5 and the same will apply to success in Key Stage 2 SATs. You will receive an up to date attendance level for your child on the Autumn Reports that are coming out at the end of term.

If your child's attendance is becoming a problem we will quickly get in touch with you. We will work together to improve your child's attendance and put into place catch-up programmes.

In the run up to the end of this term we will be reminding our pupils about the difference attendance makes to their chances in life. As parents and carers, we are asking that you do the same too please. As this [short animation](#) we'll be sharing with students shows, every minute of every day at school counts.

If you would like to discuss how to improve your child's attendance, please know that we are here to help and want to do whatever we can to support you. If you would like to speak to us, please call school or pop in and speak to myself or Mrs Leslie (our attendance lead).

Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Yours sincerely

Janey Cooksley