



# Edgewood Primary School

**Building skills and values for life**

## Attendance

I'd like to thank you all for your hard work with attendance over the last couple of years. With your support, more of our children have a good, or better, level of attendance so far this year than in the last three years.

Autumn term data shows that attendance overall was 96.1% (up 0.5% on the autumn term last year) and that the attendance of our Pupil Premium children was 95.3%, up from 92.2% at the end of 2014-15.

Thank you for all your support with sending your children in as often as possible, despite all the illnesses that seem to be very persistent this year. Please be assured that we always want you to send your children in if they are a little unwell, rather than keep them off school. As a school we are trying harder than ever not to send children home unless they really are too unwell for school. However we accept we don't always get this right. If we send your child home or ask you to collect them but they then make a miraculous recovery or you know they are not really ill then please let us know or call us back and bring them back into school if possible and we will make every effort to ensure they don't get sent home as easily in the future!

If any of you have looked at some of the published data for our school our attendance looks like it is still an area of significant concern. While there is still a lot more work we all have to do to ensure every child has good attendance at school (97% or better) the actual picture is much better than the official figures suggest. That is because this published data only looks at two terms attendance (up to Easter) when our entire year data paints a very different picture.

By the end of the 2014-15 academic year attendance had risen to 95.7%, up 0.2% on the all year data for 2013-14. Persistent absenteeism had dropped to 2.7% with the persistent absentee rate for Pupil Premium children dropping significantly to 6.5% (broadly in line with PP children nationally at 5.6%). This was achieved by close tracking, prompt reminders, first day calling for absence and the use of appropriate rewards for children and sanctions for parents in line with our attendance policy. We have also appointed an attendance officer who will support monitoring of attendance and will use drama sessions to work with those children with low attendance to improve their attendance and attitude to school.

This means our data has improved year-on-year since I started at this school and the number of persistently absent pupils and the attendance of our disadvantaged pupils has improved. I hope, with your support, we can continue this trend until every child at Edgewood has good attendance.

Ed Seeley,

Head teacher