

BROOMWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



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4th September 2024

Together we believe. Together we achieve

Dear Parents /Carers,

As a school we are doing everything we can to help support and encourage the children and their learning through intervention groups, nurture groups, forest school, cookery lessons, school trips, visits to the theatre, a variety of afterschool clubs, TT Rockstars, outdoor learning, swimming lessons, music lessons, yoga lessons and pastoral care to name but a few. This is why we need your support to ensure that children are coming to school and are on time.

We have noticed that there are patterns in some children's absences, or that we are not always informed about why a child is absent from school which is why we want to send out the reminders below regarding school attendance.

- The school day starts at 8.40am and at this time the children should be lined up in the playground ready to be taken into school by their teacher. The gate closes at 8.55am, children will then need to enter school through the reception.
- If your child is absent school must be contacted before 9am every day to inform the reason of the child's absence, otherwise it is marked as unauthorised absence. Trafford council monitors all unauthorised absences and persistent absences, parents/carers can be fined for unauthorised or persistent absences.
- Our school attendance target is 96% for pupils. Parents of children who are under this target will be contacted by letter and in some circumstances asked to attend a meeting. You can keep up to date with your child's attendance to know if they are at risk of persistent absence by asking the office staff for a copy of their attendance.
- Punctuality is just as important as attendance at school. If a child is late for school they are not only missing learning, they are also disrupting the whole class and their learning. As an adult, we know how embarrassing it can be arriving late for a meeting, or appointment. This is the same for your child and can make them upset or anxious, particularly if they have to walk into assembly late. Children do not like being late for school, especially when they have to sign in through the office and not line up with their class mates in the playground.
- We appreciate that illness in children is inevitable, as is traffic, late buses; However persistent absence does have a negative impact on children's achievement, attainment, friendships and relationships. Therefore if you child's attendance falls below 90% no medical/illness will be authorised without evidence.
- Legislation for taking children out of school in term time has changed. Meaning holidays during term time will never be approved and will be fined in line with government guidance.
- Under the new national framework, all schools will be required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons.
- From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**. If a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160. (Fines are per parent per child).
- Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other actions and prosecution will be considered. If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could be fined up to £2,500.

Please use this link for further information on these changes: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/02/29/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

Regards,
Mr Bridge
Designated Attendance Lead

Achieve believe and succeed for a brighter future.

