



The Academy of St James
Chelwood Drive,
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Telephone: 01274 777095

15th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and children

Thank you for making our return to school a success over the first couple of weeks.

It has been great to see the children back in school and enjoying themselves and seeing their friends and teachers again.

As you know the return to school after Summer this year

has been very different to what it would be normally. We now have staggered start times

and finishing times and this new way of working seems to be going well.



However, despite the unusual circumstances within which we now live we would still like to take this opportunity to remind you about the importance of good school punctuality and attendance. We all want the best for our children in order for them to reach their full potential and coming to school every-day on time is vital for this to happen. The need for good attendance is even more important in the current circumstances.

Our school day now starts from 8.40am depending on your child's class and classroom doors are open from 8.30am.

Any child arriving after 9.10am will be taken by staff to their classroom. However, we need to avoid this as much as possible to keep the school as COVID secure as we can so please please make sure your child arrives at school on time.

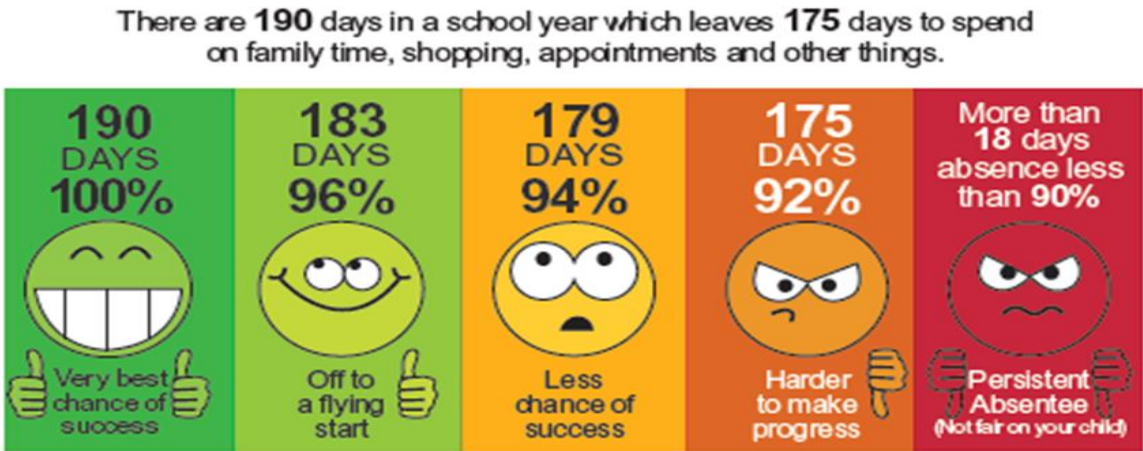
Despite the current pandemic and any local restrictions that may apply, it is now compulsory for all children to attend their school setting. If for any reason you feel that there is a reason why this cannot happen or if you have any questions relating to your child attending school please do not hesitate to contact one of us. We will always be happy to listen and help with anything we can to make the experience of both child and parent as smooth as we possibly can.

For the latest information related to COVID-19 please refer to the Government website at www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Government expectations continue to remain that children attend school at least **95.8%** of the time. Over the last few years attendance at Academy St James has steadily risen thanks to the support from everyone involved, parents, children and staff.

We will still monitor your child’s attendance over the year and keep you updated on their progress; if we were concerned that this may be dropping we will write to you, arrange a meeting and offer support to help improve your child’s attendance. Obviously, any monitoring will consider any impact on a child’s attendance due to the current pandemic.

Parents continue to have a legal duty to ensure that their children attend school regularly, children should be in school every day unless the reason for absence is unavoidable. If after support from school this does not improve then we will refer onto the Local Authority who may issue a fixed penalty fine of £60 per child per parent.



Promoting good school attendance is everyone’s responsibility, developing good habits of attendance and punctuality are key life skills. Did you know that if your child has an attendance figure 90% they have already missed out on 4 weeks of education!

We continue to not authorise holidays in Term Time, please see our website for a full list of term dates. Any term time holidays taken will continue to risk a fine issued by the local authority of £60 per child per parent.

We continue to have individual and class rewards and incentives for attendance which the children enjoying achieving.

You can call into school at anytime to see one of us if you have any queries regarding attendance and we will do what we can to help resolves any difficulties.

Yours Sincerely,

Becky Albentosa
Attendance Team

Andy Smart

Suzanne Louch
Parental Involvement