



FIRS FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs. Nuala Husband

Friday 24th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a great term and what a lovely way to finish – it was great to see everyone dressed up and really getting involved with our '1954' day yesterday!

It's been a good term for school attendance. We ended the term on 95.1% attendance for the whole school which is very close to the national average of 95.2% - Let's see if we can overtake this in the second half of Autumn term!

A really big 'Well done!' to 257 of our children who came school every day of the school year so far and ended the term on 100% attendance! Our two highest class scores were for 4M, who ended the term on 98.52% and 3H who ended on 98.23% - Really well done to the pupils in those classes!

We understand that children catch colds and bugs that prevent them from attending school and rely on parents to communicate this to us in order to be able to authorise absences due to illness so please make sure you email the office if your child is not able to attend school.

If your child accumulates a high number of absences, it may be that you are asked to provide evidence to support the school in authorising them – we work with many parents in this way. Without this, it may be that we cannot authorise absence as we will have nothing to support our discussions with the borough Educational Welfare Officer.

We often suggest to parents that they send children in if they are borderline ill and the school welfare team can monitor and contact parents if they seem too ill to complete the day. Holidays in term are unlikely to ever be authorised. However, if you have exceptional circumstances for which you can evidence – flight details, invites, certificates, medical forms etc. – and communicate with the school, we are sympathetic and will always try to work with parents regarding authorisation, taking previous attendance into account.

Although we experience some pressure from the borough to issue penalty notices, we always try to work with families to improve attendance first. This will usually involve a conversation or communication and a 3-week period of Early Intervention over which attendance will be monitored for improvement.

There is a strong correlation between good attendance and pupil achievement and the value of being in school cannot be stressed enough. It can be surprising how quickly missed days accumulate into a significant amount of lost learning for children and how seriously this can impact their progress – missing a day can put them behind for a whole unit of work, leaving them in a constant state of playing 'catch-up'.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and I look forward to seeing all of our children back on 4th November – Let's aim for 100%!

Kind regards,

Mr Biss

