



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

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Attendance Update

Over the next 7 days, you will receive an update on your child's attendance record for this academic year – either via the Studybugs App or by letter.

The aim of these letters is to keep you informed of your child's attendance and, should it be lower than the national average (96.5%), inform you of what action may be needed to avoid any action being taken by the Education Welfare Service when they examine the school registers later this term.

We use different bands to categorise children according to their attendance record – but do recognise there are often very legitimate reasons why a child is unable to attend school.

- GOLD = 100% Attendance
- GREEN = Attendance above 96.5% (but below 100%)
- AMBER = Attendance above 95% (but below 96.5%)
- RED = Attendance above 93% (but below 95%)
- WARNING = Attendance above 90% (but below 93%)
- PERSISTENT ABSENTEE = Attendance below 90%

Unfortunately, ALL absences (authorised and unauthorised) do affect a child's attendance record – but when the school has approved a child's absence then it is very unlikely that the Education Welfare Service will take any further action beyond potentially issuing a Penalty Notice Warning Letter (to inform you that your child's attendance is being closely monitored and to ensure steps are taken to see if rise over a period of 6 weeks).

Two years ago, the Department for Education increased the level of attendance expected of all pupils from 80% to 90%. This means that if your child ends the school year with an attendance record below 90%, they will become categorised as a 'Persistent Absentee' – as they have missed the equivalent of one session (half day) of school, each week, for the full school year – and their attendance is closely scrutinised for the next three years (even if they move schools).

Any absence from school is proven to have a detrimental effect on how well a child does in school – and those children with the highest attendance records typically achieve the highest scores in assessments from the beginning of primary school up into high school (and sixth form college). *This is also the case with children who always arrive at school, on time, at the start of each school day – as missing the first few minutes of the school day can be confusing for a child and make it very difficult for them to access lessons, understand what is going on and maintain strong friendships.*

This is why all pupils whose attendance record is close to, or below, 90% will be set a 6 week attendance target – aimed at improving their attendance record. This step is taken for three reasons: (i) to improve your child's chances of succeeding and doing well in school, (ii) to ensure that if there is an underlying medical condition that is adversely affecting your child's education and attendance at school, this is thoroughly investigated, and (iii) to support the family to demonstrate that they have taken steps to improve their child's attendance record and, if successful, avoid any fines or legal action being taken by the Education Welfare Service.

Please view these attendance updates as they are intended – a way of supporting families to avoid any further action being taken by the local authority; whilst also supporting the school in raising the level of attendance amongst all of our pupils.

Obviously, if your child has been off school due to an illness – such as Chicken Pox – which has significantly affected their attendance, now they have recovered, their attendance record should improve and they are very likely to achieve the attendance target; meaning no further action will be taken.

If you would welcome discussing any aspect of your child's attendance record, you are most welcome to do so.



Winning House

The winning House this week is CASTLE!

All of the children in Castle are invited to come into school on Monday dressed in their own clothes, out of uniform, hopefully adorning something that is blue to signify their victory.



Halton Lodge Primary School - Happy Learning Promotes Success !



Year 3 & 4 Parents Lunch

All parents/carers of the children in Year 3 and Year 4 should have received a letter this week inviting them to attend school on Wednesday, to sit and eat a school meal with their child (or grandchild).

If you would like to take up this option, please return the slip – and make a payment of £2.50 per extra meal – at the school office by Monday 21st January.

School Holidays

We have received a number of enquiries over the last few weeks requesting details of the school holidays for this year, and next.



We are also aware that some parents are using a variety of 'school holiday' websites to check when the school is closed. However, the dates on these websites vary and we request for all parents to only use the school website when checking for this information online: <http://haltonlodge.haltonschools.info/>

Halton Lodge School Holidays 2018/19

	First day of term	Last day of term
Autumn Term	Tuesday 4 September 2018	Friday 19 October 2018
	Monday 29 October 2018	Friday 21 December 2018
Spring Term	Monday 7 January 2019	Friday 8 February 2019
	Monday 18 February 2019	Friday 29 March 2019
Summer Term *	Monday 15 April 2019	Friday 24 May 2019
	Tuesday 4 June 2019	Friday 19 July 2019

* Includes Bank Holiday (Good Friday: Friday 19 April 2019; Easter Monday: Monday 22 April 2019; and May Bank Holiday: Monday 6 May 2019)

INSET Days

Monday 3 Sept 2018	Monday 3 June 2019	Monday 22 July 2019	Tuesday 23 July 2019	Wednesday 24 July 2019
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Halton Lodge School Holidays 2019/20

	First day of term	Last day of term
Autumn Term	Thursday 5 September 2019	Friday 25 October 2019
	Monday 4 November 2019	Friday 20 December 2019
Spring Term	Monday 6 January 2020	Friday 14 February 2020
	Monday 24 February 2020	Friday 3 April 2020
Summer Term *	Monday 20 April 2020	Friday 22 May 2020
	Tuesday 2 June 2020	Friday 17 July 2020

* Includes May Bank Holiday: Monday 4 May 2020

INSET Days

Wednesday 4 Sept 2019	Monday 1 June 2020	Monday 20 July 2020	Tuesday 21 July 2020	Wednesday 22 July 2020
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Halton Lodge School Holidays 2020/21

	First day of term	Last day of term
Autumn Term	Wednesday 2 September 2020	Friday 23 October 2020
	Monday 2 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020
Spring Term	Monday 4 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021
	Monday 22 February 2021	Thursday 1 April 2021
Summer Term *	Monday 19 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021
	Monday 7 June 2021	Friday 16 July 2021

* Includes May Bank Holiday: Monday 3 May 2021

INSET Days

Tuesday 1 Sept 2020	Monday 19 July 2021	Tuesday 20 July 2021	Wednesday 21 July 2021	Thursday 22 July 2021
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Since returning to school after Christmas, we have seen an increase in the number of children with head lice. Could we please request – especially for those parents of children with long hair - to regularly check their child's hair and to comb it through regularly – for further details see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>. There's nothing you can do to prevent head lice. You can help stop them spreading by wet or dry combing regularly to catch them early. Treat head lice as soon as you spot them. You can treat head lice without seeing a GP. There's no need for children to stay off school or to wash laundry on a hot wash.

