

OXHEY FIRST SCHOOL
A HAPPY PLACE TO LEARN AND GROW
Excellence, Teamwork, Equality, Respect



INSPIRING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER



Oxhey First School
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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: welcome back to all our children.

As the new academic year begins, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome all our children back to Oxhey First School.

As the school year begins, we would like to remind you of the importance of good attendance for all students. Every day a student is absent is a lost opportunity for learning. Too many absences not only can affect achievement for the absent student but also can disrupt learning for the entire class.

Research shows that students who consistently miss school are at risk of lower academic achievement and even dropping out of school altogether.

Bringing awareness to the issue of absence and providing information and resources to parents, can help improve students attendance and consequently, student achievement.

Persistent Absence

Most children miss a few days of school each year without long-term consequences. However, when they miss many days, the effects are almost always negative. When a child misses' 10 percent of school. They are classed as persistent absence. That is less than 2 days per month.

What Can Families Do?

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Start building this habit in nursery so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college and in their careers.

What you can do?

- **Avoid holidays in the school year.** Unless it is an exceptional circumstance and approved by the headteacher, it is recorded as unauthorised absence.
- **Build regular routines** for bedtime and the morning.
- **If they are able, put clothes and pack backpacks** the night before.
- **Talk about the importance of regular attendance** and about how your child feels about school.



- **Don't permit missing school** unless your child is truly sick. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety.
If your child seems anxious about going to school, **talk to the school**. We can offer support or advice on how to make him/her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- **Avoid medical appointments when school is in session**. Attend before and after the appointments.
- **Keep a chart** recording your child's attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see.
- **Develop back up plans** to get to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbour or another parent for help.
- **Seek support** from school staff they may be able to help.
- **Remember, arriving late after the school register is closed, is an unauthorised absence.**

Kind regards

Mrs L Jukes
Head Teacher.

