

Friday 20th March, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Supporting Your Child's Success Through Excellent Attendance

With the summer term fast approaching, a time when school attendance typically dips slightly, I am writing to remind you about the vital importance of strong school attendance and how it directly impacts your child's learning and future success.

Why Attendance Matters

Every day at school counts!

If a child has 90% attendance it equals approximately 1 day missed every two weeks meaning that almost 4 weeks of school are missed per year. This is defined by the Department for Education as persistent absence.

If attendance falls further still, for example to 85% attendance, its nearly 1 day missed every week and a complete half term of school missed across the year.

When children miss school, even for short periods, it can have a significant impact on their learning and progress as shown below;

Academic Impact:

- Missing lessons means missing key learning that builds on previous knowledge
- Children can fall behind in their understanding, making it harder to catch up
- Gaps in learning can affect confidence and engagement with schoolwork and build anxiety about returning to school
- Regular absence can ultimately impact academic achievement and future opportunities

Wider Impact:

- Friendships and social development can be affected when children miss time with their peers
- School routines that help children develop important life skills like punctuality and commitment are frequently missed
- Children being absent from school, particularly repeatedly and/or for prolonged periods, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities, detailed in the core government document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.



Our Expectations

At Hamstel Infant School and Nursery, we are committed to supporting every child to achieve their full potential, and excellent attendance is a crucial part of this. We expect all children to attend school every day, on time, unless they are genuinely unwell.

How You Can Help

- Ensure your child attends school every day unless they are too ill to do so
- Contact the school office on the first day of any absence to explain the reason
- Arrange medical and dental appointments outside of school hours wherever possible
- Talk to us early if you're experiencing any difficulties with attendance – we're here to support you

Working Together

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or need further support, please don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to work with you to ensure your child gets the best possible start in life.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child achieve their very best.

Best regards,



Mr. Roche

Principal

