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January 9th 2017

Attendance

Dear parents and carers,

As you are possibly aware, the school has been working to raise the pupil attendance figure over the last two years. We were glad to see the attendance percentage for 2016/17 at 95%, an increase of 0.7% from the previous two years. This has moved the school from the fourth quartile (out of 4) to the 3rd quartile when being compared with other similar schools. We are aiming to be in one of the two top quartiles; to do this we would need attendance to be around 95.5%. Taking this into consideration, improving attendance has once again been included as a priority on the 2017-18 school improvement plan.

School attendance is important to ensure that all pupils have as much opportunity to learn as possible. One of our strategies to improve attendance is to introduce a new attendance policy. The governing body passed a new policy at their last meeting in December, a policy which is a cross county one. It is hoped that all Wrexham schools will adopt this policy so that there is consistency across all schools. The new policy is available to view on the school's website, if you would like a paper copy, please contact the school. I'd urge you to take a look at it when possible as it explains the school's and WCBC's procedures and expectations around attendance, including punctuality, term time holidays etc.

As an appendix to the policy, there is a new holiday permission form for parents to fill in if you wish to take your child on holiday during term time. This form replaces the old style one from today onwards and it will need to be completed at least a fortnight before the holiday. The form is available from the school office. **If you have already filled in the old version of the form for a holiday between January 9th and January 19th, then you won't need to fill in the new form. If you've filled in the old form for a holiday after January 19th, then you will need to fill in the new version.** The section on term time holidays on Page 9 of the new attendance policy notes the criteria used when deciding whether to authorise a holiday or not.

If you would like to discuss any of the above, you're welcome to contact me at school.

With thanks for your co-operation,

Osian Jones