

Deansfield Primary School

Dairsie Road, Eltham, London, SE9 1XP

Tel: 020 8850 1218

Email: dfcontact@deansfield.compassps.uk

Website: www.deansfield.compassps.uk

Head Teacher:

Clara Daly

Acting Deputy Head:

Karen Baldwin



Dear Parent/Guardian,

All schools have received a letter from the Department for Education regarding school attendance and you may well have seen it being discussed in the news. These are extracts from the letter:

There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. We would encourage you to share the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) with parents and carers in your schools and communities which has further information.

In addition to respiratory illnesses, we are aware that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it. DfE has published [useful guidance on mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance](#) and those who are experiencing persistent symptoms can be encouraged to access additional support.

We are resending our procedures for attendance as a reminder and we continue to monitor attendance on a weekly basis. Alongside attendance, good punctuality is also essential. Our school day begins at 8.50am with a soft start when children go straight to their classes to begin learning and registers close at 9am. After that, children must sign in at the school reception and are marked late this will generate an automated email home.

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Please do contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's attendance,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Baldwin

Acting Deputy Head