

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



5th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and a warm welcome to our new parents. We are really excited about the year ahead. As we start a new year, the school would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of good attendance and punctuality.

ATTENDANCE

Frequent absences inevitably affect your child's learning and well-being. It is very important that your child attends school every day unless of course they are ill or there is another very good reason for them not doing so. If your child has a medical appointment, we do ask for proof where possible so that we can authorise the absence from school. This can take the form of an email, letter or appointment card.

If your child is ill, or there is any other reason why they cannot attend school, please contact the school office on the morning of the first day of absence. It is not sufficient to just tell a teacher or teaching assistant. If you do not inform the school office then we are legally obliged to contact you. If we are unable to contact you (or the other contacts on your list) to establish the reason for your child's non-attendance then, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. As legal duty of care this can potentially pose as a safeguarding concern. We do require daily notice of absence, unless specified, until your child returns to school.

From September 2015 any pupil with less than 90% school attendance will be regarded as a Persistent Absentee. This is a national threshold set by Government. Deansfield Primary School are following Government guidance and implementing a scheme in this school to prevent pupils becoming Persistent Absentees (any pupil with less than 90% school attendance).

PUNCTUALITY

Children are registered every morning at 9.00 a.m. The gates will be open at 8.50 so the children can go independently into their classrooms for a soft start. Those 5/10 minutes each day, allow your child to mentally prepare and are used to practice key skills to warm up for the day's learning. We request that parents leave the playground promptly after dropping off their child so that we can secure the school in order for children to move freely around in line with their learning.

It is very important that unless there are exceptional circumstances your child should be at school for the prescribed time. To offer an example of the importance of punctuality, missing 15 minutes each day is the equivalent to missing 10 days learning over a school year.

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Thank you for your continued support and understanding,

Yours sincerely,

Miss Hazlewood
Attendance Lead