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29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

### Moments Matter

I would like to start this letter by thanking you for your continued support in our focus on attendance in school.

You may be aware from the wider media that the government has recently launched a campaign to highlight the importance of school attendance, outlining the benefits that extend beyond attainment, including the nurturing of friendships and general wellbeing. The campaign is targeted at preventable odd days of absence, or “avoidable absence”, which for example might be linked to coughs and colds and mild anxiety. It is not aimed at parents of children who face greater barriers to attendance, such as pupils with long-term medical conditions or special educational needs and disabilities, who we continue to support with a more specialised and individual approach.

At the heart of the educational experience is a simple truth: moments matter and attendance counts. This isn't just a slogan; it's a principle backed by evidence and the collective experience of educators across the world.

### **Why Every Moment Counts**

Every day, every lesson presents a unique moment of opportunity for learning. It is a chance to engage with new ideas, to collaborate with peers, and to build upon and embed the knowledge gained in the lesson before. The cumulative effect of these moments is what shapes each pupil's academic journey. When a pupil is absent, the loss isn't just about the hours missed; it is about the moments of interaction, the shared experience and the collective inquiry that cannot be replicated outside the classroom walls. Research consistently shows that regular attendance is a critical factor in educational success. According to the Department for Education, pupils who frequently miss school are at a significant disadvantage academically.

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.

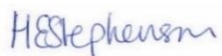
PTO

## The Way Forward

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. If you are unsure, we would encourage you to read the NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance – [click here](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Stephenson  
Head Teacher