



Friday 13th January 2017

Re Pupil Attendance

Dear parents,

I am sure it will come as no surprise to you that there is a very strong proven link between pupil attendance and pupil achievement. For this reason, Ofsted will consider attendance as part of their judgement around 'personal development, behaviour and welfare'.

Inspectors will consider:

- overall absence rates
- persistent absence rates for all pupils
- persistent absence rates for different groups and individuals (e.g. disadvantaged pupils or pupils with SEND)
- the extent to which low attenders are improving their attendance over time
- whether attendance is consistently low (in the lowest 10% nationally)

In addition, we are monitored by the Local Authority and we must be able to demonstrate that we are carefully monitoring attendance and robustly addressing any issues.

Last year's national primary attendance average was 96% and our school figures were as follows:

Bainbridge (on roll):	98%
Askrigg (on roll):	96%
West Burton:	98%

However, last term's data showed a different picture. Attendance from September to the end of November was as follows (before the onset on the December sickness bug):

Bainbridge (on roll):	94%
Askrigg (on roll):	93%
West Burton:	93%

Nationally, consistently low attendance (i.e. in the lowest 10%) was 94.8% last year and we therefore need to make sure that we monitor and address our attendance carefully. Both authorised and unauthorised absences are included in these figures. I fully appreciate that there has been plenty of genuine illness during the autumn term, and I would never encourage a child to come to school when they are ill. However, we need to be aware of the impact that attendance can have on a pupil's achievement and also therefore on the school's performance data.

If your child's attendance has fallen below 95%, please expect me to contact you directly to meet to discuss this as there may be things we can do to support you in improving your child's attendance.

If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact me in school.

Charlotte Harper

Headteacher