



# WHITMORE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful start to the school year and I have been extremely impressed with the children's fantastic attitude to their learning, excellent behaviour and determination to 'be the best they can be'.

This school year, I will be leading on attendance and wanted to update you on the school's approach for raising attendance at Whitmore Park. I will be closely working alongside Mrs Smith and Miss Keeling. At Whitmore Park, we pride ourselves on the strong relationships we have, and continue to grow, with our families. We know that by working with parents and carers, listening and understanding, we can provide the best support for attendance and learning.

Attendance is a national priority, a network priority and one of the school's five priorities for this academic year. We strongly believe that placing such an importance on attendance will help your child to achieve their full potential. Whitmore Park seeks to ensure that all its pupils receive an education which maximises opportunities for each pupil to realise their true potential. The school will strive to provide a welcoming, caring environment, whereby each member of the school community feels valued and appreciated. All school staff will work with pupils and their families to ensure each pupil attends school regularly and punctually.

Research demonstrates the link between regular attendance and educational progress and attainment. We believe that it is really important for children to attend school on time, every day, as this can make a huge difference to how well they achieve. As a school, we encourage parents and carers to ensure that their child achieves maximum possible attendance and that any problems that prevent this are identified and acted upon promptly.

In an ideal world, we would like every child to be in school every day. However, we understand that children will have time off during the school year due to illness and other circumstances therefore our school aim for every child is 96% or higher. If your child has a sniffle, a cold or a cough and feels well enough to come into school then we would like you to send your child in.

In school, we celebrate attendance every day. It is one of the key drivers at Whitmore Park. Every Monday in assembly, we announce the class with the best attendance for the previous week in each year group. The class with the most improved attendance is also announced. We also announce the class with the best attendance for the previous week in Key Stage 1 and in Key Stage 2. The two winning classes then receive an attendance trophy for the week. One of our rewards for the children at Whitmore Park is earning dojo points. Dojo points are linked to many areas of school and attendance is one of these areas. Children also receive one dojo point each day if they arrive to school on time and ready for their learning. Each year group will also have a celebration assembly at the end of each half-term to celebrate good and improved attendance.

We have a commitment to improving attendance and working together with parents and carers can help us to achieve our aims. We want the best for every child at Whitmore Park and having children in school on a daily basis will help the children of our school to reach their full potential and 'be the best they can be'.

If would like any further information on attendance, please contact myself, Mrs Smith or Miss Keeling.

Mr Johnston  
Acting Deputy Headteacher

