



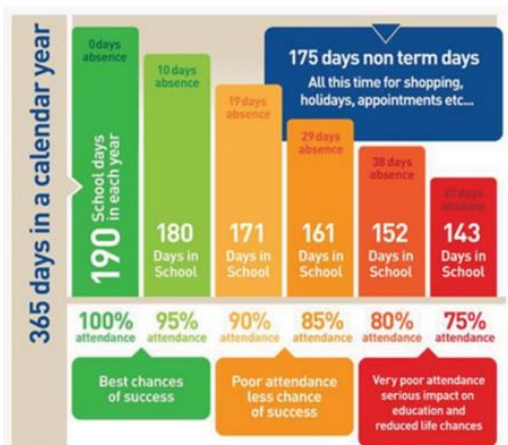
Hillborough Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter – 13th January 2023

Value of the month – our value of the month is **patience**.

Dear parents and guardians,

What a wet and windy start to this term. Please do ensure that your child has the correct coat and footwear for their day. We do not take children outside when the weather is poor, however a light drizzle or a chill in the air will not stop us with our outdoor learning. We would also add that all clothing does need to be labelled in some way or form, so that we can return it to the correct child.



Attendance – everyday counts! Our current whole school attendance is 93%! Good attendance is vital for all children, and we work to ensure all classes achieve that. The knowledge and skills that your child gains will support their achievements over time.

Persistent cases where poor attendance and punctuality do not improve can be considered neglect. Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of 90% or below is persistent absence which will be closely monitored by school staff. Failing to improve on this 90% can lead to prosecution, which school want to help families avoid.

The table below provides an example of the impact of lost learning through pupil absence:

Attendance % over a school year	Equal to number of days absent	Converted to weeks of absence	Approx. numbers of lessons missed	School Concern Level
95%	9.5	2	47.5	Pupils can catch up and succeed
90%	19	4	95	Poor attendance – concerns raised
80%	38	8	190	Very poor attendance – high levels of concern
70%	57	12	285	Serious concerns

So a child who has an attendance of 80% has **missed 38 days of school and has missed 190 lessons**.

Love of reading – in school, we have been focusing on developing every child in school to be a lover of reading and how being read to or reading for pleasure is so good for mental health & well-being but also allows for a greater access to learning. If you click on the following links, they will take you to short Read, Write, Inc. videos to support you, in supporting your child, to develop their love of reading: [Why read to your child?](#); [10 things to think about when you read to your child](#) and [listening to your child read](#).

Updates from year groups:

- **Nursery & Reception** – produce a wonderful weekly newsletter with all the exciting information about what they are working on and how you can best support your child during the week.
- **Year 1** - our first story of the new year is '[Supertato](#)'. The children have loved this story; we have tried our hardest to persuade 'the evil pea' to mend his ways. So if your children have an aversion to peas for a while you know why.

In maths, we have been embedding the days of the week and months of the year. We have also been using comparative language to compare mass and length.

- **Year 2** – In the words of the jazz musician Sun Ra, space is the place! It certainly is for Year two, as our book is the story of Laika the astronaut dog. We are writing a discussion text on whether or not animals should be sent into space. Statistics are on the minds of our mathematicians as we investigate Carol tables, tally charts and pictograms. Our historians will be learning about the achievements of Catherine Johnstone, one of the first African-American mathematicians to work at NASA. Moreover, our artists will be making secondary and tertiary colours in art as well as refining their painting skills! Computing this term is all about programming and algorithms; meanwhile, our scientists are investigating the properties of everyday materials. So while the weather may be challenging this January, we'll be too busy thinking about space to mind!

SEND – please see the attached flyers that are linked to Autism Beds and their half term programme of events. Some of the events are based in Luton and others are further afield. The other flyers are linked to sports for children with Autism and cover the age range of 3 years – 17 years. Do pass these on to friends and families of those who have children with Autism. **The wonderful thing about these sports courses is that they are FREE!**

Wishing you a peaceful weekend,

Josie Walter – Headteacher