



ROBERT MELLORS PRIMARY ACADEMY

Robert Mellors Primary Academy

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Headteacher: Emma Essex

Monday 16th September 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Important information about school attendance

At Robert Mellors, we encourage and promote excellent school attendance. Any sessions missed from school means that the children are missing out on important learning and social opportunities. Absences are disruptive to a child's education and can impact on their emotional wellbeing.

We work hard to make our school environment and atmosphere one which is fully inclusive and supportive of the varying needs of all our children. Staff build highly positive relationships with the children, and we hope that you feel that this extends to yourself and your family members. We constantly strive to make our school somewhere that your children enjoy attending.

You will probably have heard in the news that there is a new national framework to promote positive school attendance. There is guidance for schools and parents on how to reduce school absence for individual children – this includes punctuality.

We know that there are times when a child's absence from school is unavoidable. This is usually because they are too unwell to attend. A cough or a cold should not result in a child having time off school – a dose of paracetamol before school can be given which will often support your child to be able to access a normal school day. We are also able (with permission) to give a further dose if needed.

Holidays during term time will not be authorised and may result in you receiving a fine. You should note that fines are 'per child, per parent'. The threshold for fines is as follows;

- 10 sessions of unauthorised absences in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. A session relates to a half day.

If the threshold for fining is met, this is issued by the Local Authority, not the school. Neither the school nor the Local Authority benefit from this 'income' as it is used to finance the administrative costs of this process.

I know that this may sound harsh and I don't wish to cause unnecessary worry, but teaching and learning is our priority and we are unable to ensure the best possible outcomes for your children if they miss important learning.

Please take time to follow the link to further information if you wish to find out more. As always, if there is anything that you wish to discuss, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We will do whatever we can to support.

Our attendance policy can be found on the school website.

Best wishes

Mrs Essex

