



Stillness
Junior
School

Brockley Rise
Forest Hill
London SE23 1NH
Tel: 020 8690 1416
Fax: 020 8690 6349
Email: admin@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk
Website: www.stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk

'Working together to safeguard children'

Headteacher: Mrs Mitzi Nichol
Deputy Headteacher: Miss Kirsty Walker

11 January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Attendance and Punctuality

Ofsted write "95% of schools judged as outstanding overall have correspondingly good attendance rates".

According to the Department for Education (DfE), if schools can improve their attendance by 1%, they will see a 5-6% improvement in attainment. Children who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and do less well in exams. The more time a child spends around other children, whether in the classroom or as part of a school team or club, the more chance they have of making friends and feeling included, boosting social skills, confidence and self-esteem.

DfE expect all schools to be no lower than 95%. At Stillness Junior School our attendance for this academic year has been:-

4 September 2017 – 20 October 2017 - **98.35%**
4 September 2017 – 20 December 2017 - **97.11%**
4 September 2017 – 11 January 2018 - **95.98%**.

Due to the number of holidays taken over the Christmas period we are now running just above what is expected of us as a school. This percentage will prevent us from being classified as an outstanding school by Ofsted.

I am extremely concerned about the number of parents who are still requesting holidays during term time. This is something that, as a school, we actively discourage.

Parents and carers are requested not to book holidays during term time as it disrupts your child/ren's learning. Children attend school for only 190 days a year and the rest of the year is available for holidays.

Days off school soon add up and missing lessons makes it hard to catch up, resulting in children having to work harder when they come back and missing vital information that will prevent their progress. Good habits in terms of attending school and being on time are both crucial to ensuring a positive attitude towards school.

In light of the above, our Governing Body have reviewed and updated our school attendance policy and I attach a copy for your information; this policy is also accessible on our school *website* www.stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Nichol
Headteacher

