

# Every Minute Matters!

Dear Parents/Guardians and Carers,

Stillness Junior School will be launching a new attendance and punctuality drive from April 22, 2019, and as such we are writing to remind you of our high expectations. Pupils of the school are expected to attend every day and on time. The national average for attendance is the minimum expectation from the Government, which is currently at 96%. We remain below this at this time, and need your continuing support to ensure that we hit this important mark!

**THANK YOU SO MUCH** to those families who have been working hard to ensure children's punctuality and attendance is high.

**THANK YOU** for getting these important habits established early on in your child's life as it will make a difference in their futures.

There is a link between attendance and achievement and therefore it is very important that your child attends school every day unless there are *exceptional* circumstances.



## Punctuality Matters too!

**Missed minutes = missed learning = missed opportunities!**

As a school, we are aware lateness can severely affect achievement. We monitor punctuality closely and have strategies in place to address lateness. Awareness of the impact of lateness is raised with pupils, staff and parents regularly. The school gates open at **08:45am**. Registration begins at **08:50am** and all pupils are expected to be in their form room at this time. Pupils arriving after this time will be marked as present but arriving late (L). The register will close at 09:20am. Those pupils arriving after this time will be marked as (U) unauthorised absence.

On arrival after the close of register, pupils must immediately report to the school attendance leader's office to sign in to ensure that we can be responsible for their health and safety whilst they are in school.



## Why is good attendance and punctuality important?

Education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Regular and punctual attendance at school is key to both academic and social development, which in turn will improve the life chances of children and young people.

## What does 90% attendance mean?

- **90% attendance** =  $\frac{1}{2}$  school day missed every week!
- **One school year at 90% attendance** = 4 weeks of learning missed!
- **Over 5 school years of school** =  $\frac{1}{2}$  school year missed!
- **All children and young people nationally whose school attendance is 90% or below are considered to be persistent absentees and as such Stillness Junior School, working in partnership with Lewisham Education will take the necessary steps to address this.**

Parents/guardians/carers should ensure that family holidays and any term time leave, including medical or dental appointments are arranged outside of school term time.

Any unauthorised absence may result in an immediate penalty notice of **£60** per child from Lewisham's Access and Engagement Service.

**If your child's attendance falls below 96%, the school will invite you to a meeting to discuss this. Further absence may result in prosecution by the local authority.**

