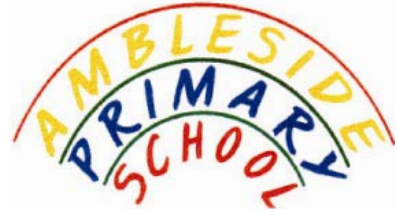


The Daily

AMBLESIDE

February 2011



Attendance has impact on life chances – FACT!

GOING to school regularly is important to your child's future. Children who miss school frequently fall behind with their work and do less well in exams. Good attendance shows potential employers that your child is reliable. Research suggests that children who attend school regularly could also be at less risk of getting involved in antisocial behaviour or crime.

It might sound OK to say your child attends school 90% of the time. However, this means they are missing half a day of school per week. Over one year, this equates to a child missing a whopping **4 weeks** of school!!!!

ATTENDANCE AT OUR SCHOOL IS CURRENTLY A SHOCKING 91.2% !!!!

At the end of the autumn term 2010, attendance at Ambleside Primary fell to 91.2%. This is an unacceptable 2.8 percent below the NATIONAL Average.

As a result, attendance at Ambleside Primary School is judged by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) to be unsatisfactory.

As a community we all need to work together in order to improve on this. As a school we believe that it is important we do everything we can to support parents and carers in ensuring your child attends school regularly.

One way in which we do this is to keep parents and carers regularly informed of their child's attendance.



INSIDE: ATTENDANCE – THE FACTS

As many of you will be aware, we as a school are continually trying to improve our standards. It is widely recognised that regular attendance at school is a key factor in raising pupil attainment and for improving future life opportunities for young people.

Every three weeks we meet with our E.W.O (Education Welfare Officer) and look at every child's attendance and punctuality. We then notify parents and carers if a child's overall attendance has fallen below 90% and/or if they are regularly arriving at school late for registration at **8:45am**. Please note that **ALL** absences, authorised or unauthorised, (regardless of the reason provided) are counted towards the overall attendance figure.

Regular school attendance – why it's so important

Going to school regularly is important to your child's future. Children who miss school frequently fall behind with their work and do less well in exams.

If a child attends school **90%** of the time, this effectively means they are missing half a day of school per week. Over one year, this equates to a child missing 4 weeks of school. During the course of their education, half a year of schooling would be lost.

If your child only attends **80%** of the time, they are missing one day of school per week - eight weeks per year. During the course of their education, **one whole year** of schooling would be lost.

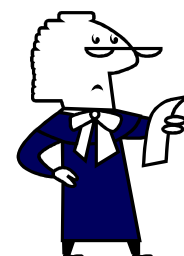
School attendance and absence: the law

By law, all children of compulsory school age (five to 16) must receive a suitable full-time education. Once your child is registered at a school, you are legally responsible for making sure they attend regularly.

A child registered at a school can **legally** miss school only in very limited circumstances. These include:

- when the child is too ill to attend
- when the school has authorised the absence beforehand

If your child's overall attendance falls below 90%, you will be contacted by school or the local authority. Local authorities **have a duty** to step in if they believe a child is not getting the education required by law. You may be visited by a member of the Education Welfare Service. They will talk to you about your child's attendance problems. If your child fails to attend school regularly you risk getting a penalty notice or being prosecuted.



Preventing your child from missing school: what can you do

You can help prevent your child missing school by:

- making sure they understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- taking an interest in their education - ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities
- discussing any problems they may have at school - inform their teacher or head teacher about anything serious
- not letting them take time off school for minor ailments - particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work
- arranging appointments and outings after school hours, at weekends or during school holidays will help to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school. Under normal circumstances, you should not **expect** the school to agree to your child going on holiday during term time.

For more information regarding school attendance please speak to the admin staff at our main office who will make you an appointment to see our attendance co-ordinator or go online at: www.direct.gov.uk and click on 'Parents' or visit www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk and click on 'Education and Learning'.

Current attendance at Ambleside Primary School by Class

Class Number	Percentage of attendance
Class 15	94.9
Class 11	94.6
Class 12	93.9
Class 14	92.7
Class 8	92.1
Class 10	91.7
Class 7	91.7
Class 9	91.4
Class 1	91.3
Class 13	91.1
Class 4	91.1
Class 5	90.9
Class 6	90.2
F2 Class 2	89.8
Class 2	89.6
Class 3	89.3
F2 Class 3	86.5
F2 Class 1	85.7

Days off school add up to **LOST LEARNING!**

100% attendance	0 weeks of learning missed	Best chance of success Well done
95% attendance	1 week, 4 days of learning missed	

90% attendance	3 weeks, 4 days of learning missed	Poor attendance I'm worried
85% attendance	5 weeks, 3 days of learning missed	

80% attendance	7 weeks, 3 days of learning missed	Very poor attendance I'm seriously concerned
75% attendance	9 weeks, 1 day of learning missed	

