



Goonhavern Primary School

Attendance Newsletter – Autumn 1

Together, Every Day Counts: At Goonhavern School, we know that every day matters. Good attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve their full potential, both academically and socially.

Did You Know? Children who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve strong outcomes, build positive friendships and develop the confidence and skills they need for the future.

The Impact on Learning: Research shows that attendance has a significant effect on achievement:

✓ Pupils with 95-100% attendance at Key Stage 2 are 1.3 times more likely to meet the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics than pupils whose attendance is between 90-95%.

✓ At Key Stage 4, students with 95-100% attendance are almost twice as likely (1.9 times) to achieve a Grade 5 in English and Mathematics GCSEs.

✓ Missing just 10 days of school can have a substantial impact:

- In Year 6, it can reduce the likelihood of meeting the expected standard by 25%.
- In Year 11, it can reduce the chance of achieving a Grade 5 in English and Mathematics by 50%.

The Impact on Wellbeing: Regular attendance is about much more than academic progress. Being in school helps children to:

- Build and maintain strong friendships.
- Develop communication and social skills.
- Feel connected to their classmates and teachers.
- Experience a greater sense of belonging within the school community.

Looking to the Future: Attendance can also influence opportunities later in life:

- Studies suggest that each additional day of absence during secondary school is associated with lower future earnings.
- Higher levels of absence are linked with an increased risk of unemployment and financial hardship in adulthood.

Working Together: We understand that children will sometimes be unwell and unable to attend school. However, whenever possible, we encourage families to make attendance a priority. Every lesson, every interaction and every school day contributes to a child's learning, confidence and success.



Current Whole School Attendance Stats – A Strong Start to the Year

- **Week 1:** 96.4%
- **Week 2:** 97.9% ★
- **Week 3:** 97.1%
- **Week 4:** 97.1%
- **Week 5:** 96.6%
- **Week 6:** 94.9%
- **Week 7:** 94.7%

Autumn Term Average So Far: 96.4%

We are delighted with the positive start to attendance this academic year. During the first seven weeks of term, our whole-school attendance averaged 96.4%, with attendance exceeding our 96% target in five of those weeks. Week 2 was particularly impressive, with an outstanding attendance figure of 97.9%.

As we moved into October, we saw a slight decline in attendance. Despite this, attendance has remained strong overall and reflects the commitment of our families to ensuring children are in school and ready to learn whenever they are well enough to attend.

Every day in school matters. Regular attendance not only supports academic achievement but also helps children maintain friendships, develop confidence, and fully participate in school life. Thank you for your continued support in helping us make attendance a priority across our school community.

Our Goal: 96%+ Attendance for Every Child

Attendance by Year Group

- **Year R:** 95.4%
- **Year 1:** 96.3%
- **Year 2:** 98.1% ★
- **Year 3:** 95.8%
- **Year 4:** 95.9%
- **Year 5:** 96.5%
- **Year 6:** 96.4%

It is fantastic to see such strong attendance across the school this term, with four year groups currently achieving or exceeding our school target of 96% attendance.



A special congratulations goes to Year 2, who are leading the way with an exceptional 98.1% attendance. This is a remarkable achievement and reflects the commitment of both pupils and families to ensuring children are in school every day, ready to learn.

Well done also to Year 5 (96.5%), Year 6 (96.4%), and Year 1 (96.3%), all of whom are currently above our attendance target.

For the remaining year groups, attendance remains positive, and we know that even small improvements can make a significant difference. Just a few additional days in school can have a huge impact on children's learning, confidence, friendships and overall wellbeing.

★ **Attendance Champions: Year 2 - 98.1%**

As we move into the second half of the term, let's see if any year group can challenge Year 2 for the top spot! Thank you to all families for your continued support in helping every child make the most of every school day.

Attendance Success Across the School

We are delighted to report that 99 of our 187 pupils have maintained 100% attendance since the start of the academic year. This means that more than half of our pupils have not missed a single day of learning, a fantastic achievement that reflects the commitment of both our children and their families.

In addition, 132 pupils currently have attendance of 96% or above, placing them at or above the national expectation for good attendance. This means that over 70% of our pupils are attending school regularly and giving themselves the very best opportunity to succeed.

Regular attendance is one of the strongest indicators of future success. Children who are in school every day benefit from uninterrupted learning, stronger friendships, greater confidence and a stronger sense of belonging within our school community.

- 99 pupils with 100% attendance
- 132 pupils with attendance of 96% or above
- More than 70% of pupils currently meeting our attendance expectations

We are incredibly proud of these figures and would like to thank our families for their ongoing support. Together, we can continue to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive, learn and achieve.



Spotlight on Punctuality

Did you know that being just 10 minutes late every day adds up to around 33 hours of lost learning over the course of a school year?

Arriving on time at 8:40pm helps children start the day calmly, settle into class routines, and benefit from important teaching that often takes place first thing in the morning. Even a few minutes each day can quickly add up and impact learning, confidence and progress.

Top Tips for Excellent Attendance and Punctuality

There are lots of simple things families can do to support regular attendance and ensure children arrive ready to learn:

- ✓ Set a consistent bedtime and morning routine
- ✓ Prepare school bags, uniforms and lunches the night before
- ✓ Allow plenty of time for the morning journey to school
- ✓ Attend medical appointments outside school hours where possible
- ✓ Avoid booking family holidays during term time
- ✓ Speak to the school as early as possible if you have concerns about your child's attendance
- ✓ Encourage children to attend whenever they are well enough to do so

Every Minute Matters

Good attendance and punctuality help children make the most of every school day. By arriving on time and attending regularly, children can fully participate in lessons, build strong friendships and develop the habits that will support them throughout their education and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us ensure that every day, and every minute, counts.



DfE statutory guidance is clear: holidays during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Unavoidable leave of absence requests for school-aged children are generally related to one off events that are rare, significant, unavoidable, and short in duration. Family holidays are not considered unavoidable

Taking your child out of school without permission may result in a **Penalty Notice** being issued. What this means:

- A Penalty Notice may be issued if your child has **unauthorised absences**, including holidays.
- The fine is **£80 per child, per parent** if paid within 21 days, rising to **£160** if paid within 28 days.
- Failure to pay may result in prosecution.
- There is **no right of appeal**—if you believe a notice was **issued in error**, you must contact the school directly.

We understand that holidays are important for family time, but we are legally required to prioritise your child's education and wellbeing. Every school day counts.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days

If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days.

Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

If you have any questions or need to discuss exceptional circumstances, please contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support.