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Dear Parent/Carer

Attendance

There has been a significant drop in school attendance figures and this has become a national cause for concern. You may have heard about this problem on the television and radio. Lots of schools, including Barham, are trying to have an attendance 'reset' now to get back to old expectations for attendance. It is expected that a child's attendance is no lower than 97%.

Regular attendance is an important factor in a child's academic success. When pupils are frequently absent, it is difficult for them to keep up with their school work and this could affect their life chances. For this reason, we take school attendance very seriously. We do recognise that there is a legacy from the pandemic when we asked parents to keep their children at home. We also know that some children have become more anxious about school since the pandemic and that many families needed to rearrange holidays unavoidably during term time after the pandemic. Now, term time holidays are not authorised, unless they meet one of the four exceptional criteria and should be avoided.

We have attached your child's attendance record. If your child's attendance is a cause for concern (less than 90%), we would like to support you to help increase your child's attendance and will contact some families next term to arrange a meeting.

Every minute counts

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning.

- 5 minutes late every day means around 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ days of education are missed
- a score of 90% in a test would be a good result but 90% attendance means that a child will have missed around 100 lessons over a school year.



Every minute counts - examples

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

Yours sincerely,



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Co-headteacher

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