

## **Letter to all Parents and Carers of children and young people in Newport Schools**

We want the best for all Newport children and young people and we would like to start the new school year reminding you of the importance of good attendance at school.

### **What is good attendance?**

Good attendance is 95% and we expect at least this of most children. Around 3000 primary school children achieve this

Schools are open to pupils 190 days of the year.

That allows 175 days for holidays, rest and non-urgent appointments.

### **What are the advantages of good attendance?**

Attending school had the benefit of:

- To keep up with school work
- To ensure that children meet their expected progress
- Meeting friends and learning and playing together
- Learning habits needed for adult life like regular attendance and arriving on time
- And you know where your child is when he or she is at school

### **What are the consequences of poor attendance?**

Most importantly your child will miss out on learning and on social contact in school. Birthday treats can happen after school or at the weekend, holidays can happen when school is closed. There are a lot of demands on children and young people in terms of knowledge and testing throughout their school careers. Learning alongside your peers means you are not left behind with catching up to do.

This is true for more than a day, a week, or longer.

Those who do not attend school regularly may regret this for the rest of their lives.

Regular attendance is required by law and Wales is introducing Fixed Penalty Notice and Fines from September for parents who have children with more than 5 days of unauthorised absence. This can be issued for any absences not authorised by the school, including holidays. Newport City Council will issue these notices when concerns are raised by school or the police. The fine is £120 unless paid within 28 days when it is £60

### **Contacts**

If your child is absent for any reason, please contact the school to explain

If you need help and advice with any difficulties, contact the Education Welfare Service on 01633 210615 or email [inclusionadmin.support@newport.gov.uk](mailto:inclusionadmin.support@newport.gov.uk)