

King Edwin Primary School



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I just wanted to follow up on the many attendance **notifications** that were sent out today, as I appreciate that receiving a letter about your child's attendance can sometimes feel worrying or frustrating. Please let me reassure you that the purpose of these letters is simply to **keep you informed**, and not to cause concern .

To be honest...we are reluctant to even send the attendance communications out as this has not been part of our process previously. However, as attendance patterns are showing a clear decline, we must now do what many schools have been doing for some time. Hopefully our KingEdwinners families will understand and actually know whether attendance is an issue for their child and then contact us accordingly for help. **If it isn't an issue... then they will simply accept the letter in the manner in which it was intended and probably delete the email!**

The Department for Education requires all schools to monitor attendance very closely and to notify parents whenever attendance falls below national expectations. This is something that all schools must do, and it forms part of our safeguarding duties. Because of this, many families received a letter today - even where the absences were due to illness, medical appointments, or circumstances perhaps outside of your control.

I fully understand that some children have had unavoidable time off this year, and we know that the vast majority of parents are doing everything they can to ensure their children attend regularly. The letters are **not personal**, nor are they a judgement; they are a required part of our attendance monitoring, and they help us keep an accurate picture of attendance across the school.

Please know that our aim is always to work **with families**, not against them. We want every child to thrive, to feel settled, and to make the best possible progress - and good attendance plays a vital role in that. If you ever feel you need support, advice, or simply a conversation about attendance, we are here to help.

Thank you for your understanding and for your continued support. We know how much you do each day to help your children grow, learn and achieve, and we are incredibly grateful for your partnership.

Warm regards,

Andy Callaghan-Wetton – Headteacher King Edwin Primary School

