



*Learning together - enjoying success - aiming high –
celebrating difference – enriching community*

27th January 2025

Dear Parent/ Carer,

The value of strong school attendance in the Early Years

You may already be aware of the value that we at Haytor View place in strong levels of attendance in school. We recognise clearly the impact that poor attendance has upon children's progress over time as well as the challenges that this can present to children, who are well able to make progress but fail to meet their potential or keep up with their peers due to the experiences missed. Nowhere is this more important than in children's early years in education.

Following a recent review of attendance across the school it was notable that attendance of children in Reception is currently lower than other year groups across the school. We recognise that the routine of coming to school regularly 5 days a week can be a challenging one to develop when children are young. What we see however, is that for those children and families that focus upon this in the first years of schooling, it's a habit and understanding that is maintained throughout their school life and supports them in achieving their potential as learners and as community members. It sees them able to link experiences and learning day-to-day and avoid the need to feel that they need to 'catch-up', which can be an uncomfortable experience for anyone.

With this in mind, we would welcome you talking to us if you feel challenged by maintaining strong levels of attendance for your child. Perhaps they seem to be unwell all too frequently, sometimes show reluctance to attend, or the necessary morning routines sometimes feel just out of reach? We appreciate that there may be many factors that get in the way of achieving strong attendance – we also recognise the impact that this can have upon children's development. As such would be very happy to hear from you and to help you with this.

We'd invite you to talk to any member of the Foundation Stage team, or any other school leaders about your child's attendance levels. We have a good track record of supporting families for whom attendance is a challenge, and we'd be keen to help you in any way that we can if you feel this would be useful.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Hampton
Head Teacher