

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Attendance Expectations 2026–2027

As we begin a new academic year, I wanted to write to all families to set out our expectations around attendance at New Moston Primary School.

Put simply, **every day in school matters**.

Children who attend school regularly have greater access to learning, build stronger relationships with their friends and adults, and have more opportunities to succeed. Missing school regularly means missing learning, experiences and opportunities that cannot always simply be caught up later.

Ensuring that your child attends school regularly is a **legal responsibility of parents and carers**. As a school, we will always work with families where there are genuine barriers to attendance and provide support wherever we reasonably can. However, ultimately, parents and carers are responsible for ensuring that their child attends school regularly.

Our Standard

At New Moston, one of our core values is High Standards, and this applies to attendance too.

Our **minimum attendance standard is 96%**, with an **aspirational standard of 98%** or above for every child.

We are not expecting perfection. In fact, we do not give awards for 100% attendance. Children become genuinely unwell, and we would never want a child to feel that being appropriately absent through illness has prevented them from receiving an award.

Instead, in keeping with our value of Growth, we want to recognise strong attendance and, importantly, improvement. For some children, success this year may mean maintaining excellent attendance; for others, it will mean making significant improvements compared with last year.

Attendance	Approx. days absent	What this means
100%	0 days	Perfect attendance – not required
98%	Approx. 4 days	Our aspirational standard
96%	Approx. 8 days	Our minimum standard
95%	Approx. 10 days	Around 2 school weeks missed
90%	Approx. 19 days	Around 4 school weeks missed – Persistent Absence
85%	Approx. 29 days	Nearly 6 school weeks missed
80%	Approx. 38 days	Nearly 8 school weeks missed

Attendance	Approx. days absent	What this means
75%	Approx. 48 days	Nearly 10 school weeks missed

The Department for Education defines a pupil as persistently absent when they miss 10% or more of their possible school sessions.

Monitoring Attendance

Throughout this academic year, we will review children's attendance each half term.

Where a child's attendance falls below 90%, they will be placed on an attendance monitoring period. Where necessary, parents/carers will be invited to a formal attendance meeting so that we can understand the reasons for absence, identify any barriers and discuss what support may be required.

We will always approach attendance with both support and high expectations. We understand that individual circumstances differ, but we cannot allow poor attendance to become a barrier to a child's education.

For most children, our ambition should be 98% attendance or better. As a minimum, we expect children to achieve 96% attendance or above.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, we can ensure that our children are in school, learning and making the most of every opportunity available to them.

Kind regards,



Mr P Stewart
Headteacher