



# Nether Stowe School

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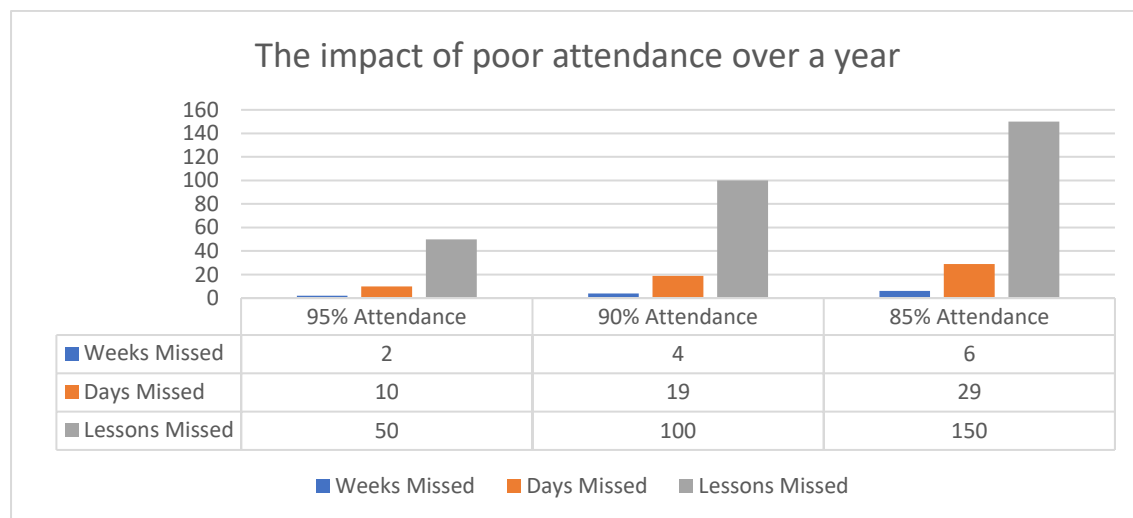
24 May 2019

Dear parent or carer,

The summer term is always an exceptionally busy one and, as we approach the end of the academic year, I would like to take the opportunity to write to you to outline some key messages and information.

## Attendance

We are having a significant push on attendance across the school. **The school attendance target for all pupils is 95%**. As you will be aware, there is a direct link between good attendance and good academic progress. Department of Education research shows that, if a pupil improves their attendance by just 1%, it has a significant impact on their achievement, progress, employability and earning power. **To put it simply: every 17 days of school missed a year equals a decrease, on average, of one GCSE grade.**



## How can you support your child and the school?

- Speak to your child so that they understand the importance of good attendance and the impact this has on their future progress and prospects. Be positive about school and support our aims.
- Help your child by establishing routines around evenings and mornings, especially for uniform and equipment.
- Only keep them off school if it is absolutely necessary and communicate with the school early about any concerns or issues.
- Whilst we appreciate that it is sometimes difficult to arrange medical appointments outside of school hours, it is important to organise routine appointments either very early or after 3:00pm

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- Authorised absences can only be agreed in exceptional circumstances. There are 14 weeks in the school year where families can take holidays and such requests cannot be considered as exceptional circumstances.

We also recognise and reward good attendance in every end-of-term awards assembly and have utilised student voice to identify preferred awards for attendance above the target.

## Uniform

Thank you to the parents and carers who contributed to the standardised school skirt uniform consultation. In total we had only 30 responses, with 13 in favour and 17 raising questions or concerns. I am delighted by the way almost all students in the school wear their uniform with pride. It is an important part of their College and school identity. Whilst there are a minority who push the boundaries of what is acceptable – especially in terms of length of skirt – I have decided it would be unfair, at this stage, to pass on the cost to all parents in order to address the occasional transgressions of a few pupils. Accordingly, there will be no formal change to the uniform for Sept 2019.

However, I do wish to take an important opportunity to reinforce our expectations. School skirts should be knee length and not be a tight-fitting style or material. Pupils who opt to wear trousers are reminded that they must be plain black, formal, office-style, with no visible zips. Leggings, tight-fitting trousers or jeggings are not acceptable. These expectations will be strictly enforced. We will be working closely with students, and communicating to parents, over the coming half-term to remedy any inconsistencies with the clear understanding that expectations will be met no later than the start of the new academic year in Sept.

Full uniform guidance can be found in our website.

## School Day

As agreed with the Local Governing Body, we will be making a small change to the school day from Sept 2019: the removal of 5 mins from afternoon registration. This means the school day will finish at 3:00p.m, not 3:05p.m. Lesson time will not be affected. The time gained, over the school year, amounts to approx. 16 hours in total, and will be utilised for staff and teacher development.

The slightly earlier finish will also mean that pupils serving a 10min class-teacher detention, at the end of the day, will be easily able to catch the bus services.

## Insight

We will be utilising the Insight app and platform to provide updates and important information for parents. The final assessment data reports will be available exclusively through Insight and we will provide further information and guidance at the start of next half-term.

Yours faithfully,



Mr G Langston-Jones  
Headteacher

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