

# Greenfield Primary School and Nursery

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Headteacher: Mr M Wood M.Ed.

*Excellence and Enjoyment for All*

Dear Parents and Carers

17<sup>th</sup> March 2017

I am writing to remind you of the Government's "persistent absence" threshold of 10%. The Local Authority require schools to submit the names of pupils who are persistently absent, half termly and the steps school has taken to try to improve the situation in every single case. The Government itself also collects this information through a termly Census from all schools in England and Wales. This information is also scrutinized by the Local Authority School Improvement Partners with individual schools and indeed Ofsted during their inspection of schools.

The term "persistent absence" is used by all these agencies when collecting and analysing data and I have included the following table below to share with you how absences are calculated throughout the year. Please bear in mind that 2 sessions are equivalent to 1 day and for example, it will be classed as a persistent absence if 3 and a half or more days are taken off school during that first half term.

The following table shows estimated cumulative absent session thresholds for 10 per cent:

	10 per cent
Half-term 1	7 or more sessions
Half-term 1-2 (Autumn term)	14 or more sessions
Half-term 1-3	20 or more sessions
Half-term 1-4 (Autumn and Spring term combined)	25 or more sessions
Half-term 1-5	31 or more sessions
Half-term 1-6 (Full academic year)	38 or more sessions

School's Minister, Nick Gibb, said:

"We know that children who are absent for substantial parts of their education fall behind their friends and struggle to catch up. By changing the threshold on persistent absence, we are encouraging schools to crack down on persistent absenteeism. We will be setting out over the coming months stronger powers for schools to use if they wish to send a clear message to parents that persistent absence is unacceptable".

I really appreciate the effort that our parents put in to maintaining their child's attendance at school. Currently Greenfield Primary School has an outstanding attendance figure of 97% for the Autumn term which must be amongst the best attendance figures in England and Wales.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Wood  
Headteacher