



# Cheselbourne Village School

Friday 20th September 2024



*Dear Parents and Carers,*

Recently, we shared the annual attendance letter. The aim of this approach is to continue the raised awareness that children have a better chance to achieve their best if they attend school regularly. This is a uniform strategy across all of the Dorset schools, which has followed some **significant updates** in guidance over the Summer.

A few absences can quickly add up to a significant loss in learning time. For example, a child who ends the year with 95% attendance has been absent from school for the equivalent of 10 full days. You will see that I have also shared the Learning First Alliance (Joint Statement), which is aimed to bring further consistency across our local schools.

As a school, we are committed to ensuring the highest possible attendance level for every child, and we have a very good overall track record. We are realistic in our view that some are sometimes ill, and/or require medical help. This is out of all of everyone's control, but I please ask for your continued support.

Having a consistent approach enables the schools to work together to spot patterns and reflect on ways to support and 'work with you' as families. We have increased our communications on attendance in the last year, and the impact that this has had on the figures is impressive. Below, you can see a new poster that has been circulating on social media. It does provide some examples of how the council could use the penalty notice more frequently. Please do come and speak to me, if you wish to discuss anything further.

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Thank you for your shared understanding and let's continue to strive to keep children in school as much as possible, and on time.

Kind regards,

*Mr C Perry* - Mr C. Perry (Headteacher)

## Swimathon

The Wareham Lions Swimathon is on **Saturday the 12th of October at 11:15am**. This is a chance for us to fundraise for our school and have a great time swimming. We meet at Wareham Swimming Pool at 10:30 so that we are ready to be in the pool at 11:15, we have 55 minutes to swim as many lengths as we can as a team.

Adults are allowed in the water to support children and we swim in relays so that children can rest between lengths. They can wear any flotation devices that they need to support them in the pool.

Please ask in the office for a sponsorship and permission form and speak to Mrs Price if you have any questions.



# ATTENDANCE

## WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

# 1

**I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.**

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

# £160



# 2

**FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.**

+ £160   + £160   + £160   + £160  
**4 children & 1 parent = £640**  
Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

## IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

# 10 IN 10

# 5

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

# 1 Day = 2 Sessions

# 3

## FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS

+ £160   + £160   + £160   + £160

**4 children & 2 parents =  
£1280**

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

**If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...**

# 4

### 2ND TIME

2 parents and  
1 child = £320  
2 children = 640  
3 children = 960  
4 children = 1280

**No discount for early payment**



### 3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.

A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child

**1 parent & 4 children = £10,000  
2 parents & 4 children = £20,000**

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# Attendance (this week)

(Target = 95%)



Whole School (this week): 98.14%

Caterpillar Class: 98.88%



Butterfly Class: 98.75%



Kingfisher Class: 97.65%



Whole School (SEPT - NOW): 98.79%





Photos

<https://www.facebook.com/cheselbournevillageschool>

Photo of the week



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## **Safeguarding Support**

If you ever have a concern about a child, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mr Perry

In the absence of Mr Perry please speak to our deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:  
Mrs Collett or Mrs Hockham

## ***2024-25 Term Dates - updates***

### AUTUMN TERM 2024

Tuesday 3rd September—Teacher return—INSET

Wednesday 4th September—Teacher return—INSET

Thursday 5th September—PUPILS RETURN

Wednesday 25th September - HOOKE COURT Y4 parents talk - 5:30pm

Saturday 5th October - Charity Quiz

Saturday 12th October - Annual Swimathon - Wareham

Wednesday 16th October - Y3&4 Library event - Letters sent

Thursday 17th October - Y1&2 Library event - Letters sent

Wednesday 23rd October - Harvest Festival - 2pm - The Church (parents invited)

Friday 25th October - INSET DAY (No children in school)

### HALF TERM

Monday 4th November - Children return

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**Newsletters and Information** - Please remember that key information and copies of letters are on the school website: [www.cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk)



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Cheselbourne Village School  
Cheselbourne  
Dorchester  
Dorset  
DT2 7NT

[office@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk) 01258 837306  
<https://www.facebook.com/cheselbournevillageschool>



**Headteacher:**  
Mr C Perry

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A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of several overlapping geometric shapes in shades of pink and blue, creating a modern, abstract design.