

# Courthill Infant School

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Headteacher: Mrs Alison Carter



4<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents / Carers

You may be aware that the government has made school attendance a priority across the country, stating that children with good attendance (95% or above) achieve better academic outcomes, enjoy improved well-being and are more likely to thrive in later life.

***Did you know that across the year there are just 190 school days? That means there are already 175 days set aside for weekends, holidays, family visits and rewarding days out.***

At Courthill, the average attendance across the whole school is good (95%). In fact, **68% of children have attendance over 95%**, including 18% who have 100%! However, there are some worrying numbers.

- 12% of children are persistently absent (attendance of 90% or less).
- 19% of children are at risk of being persistently absent (attendance above 90% but below 95%).

Additionally, it is particularly concerning that among our Pupil Premium pupils (some of our most vulnerable groups of children), 34% have attendance below 90%. This highlights an **urgent need for all of us to support children and families to improve attendance.**

With this in mind, you should have an exceptional reason to withdraw your child from school. [Click here for the CLP letter](#) sent at the start of the year to see what is classed as exceptional leave, which may be authorised. I know that young children are susceptible to illness, especially infant-school-aged children, and we have already seen the inevitable flu and sickness bugs hit our school. We recognise that days off for illness are unavoidable, but any additional days not in school (due to holidays or other unauthorised absences, for example) can lead to lost learning, children feeling disconnected from their friends and a loss in confidence. The same applies to children who are consistently late each day; over time, minutes lost due to being late build up to days lost (see table below).

As I said, I understand that illness is unavoidable and I would never suggest sending a child to school if they are too ill. We appreciate that deciding if your child is well enough for school can be challenging. [This NHS guidance](#) can support your decision making. To help improve attendance across our school, we kindly ask that families follow this guidance wherever possible. If your child's health changes during the school day and we feel they are too unwell to stay, we will always call you straight away.

With your continued support, we can make a real difference to our children's attendance. Please help us by ensuring your child arrives on time each day and by avoiding taking term-time holidays. Together, we can make sure every child has the best possible chance to succeed. Thank you for your support.

Mrs Carter, Headteacher



the sandwell  
well-being  
charter  
mark



PROUD TO BE A  
MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL  
2023 - 2024



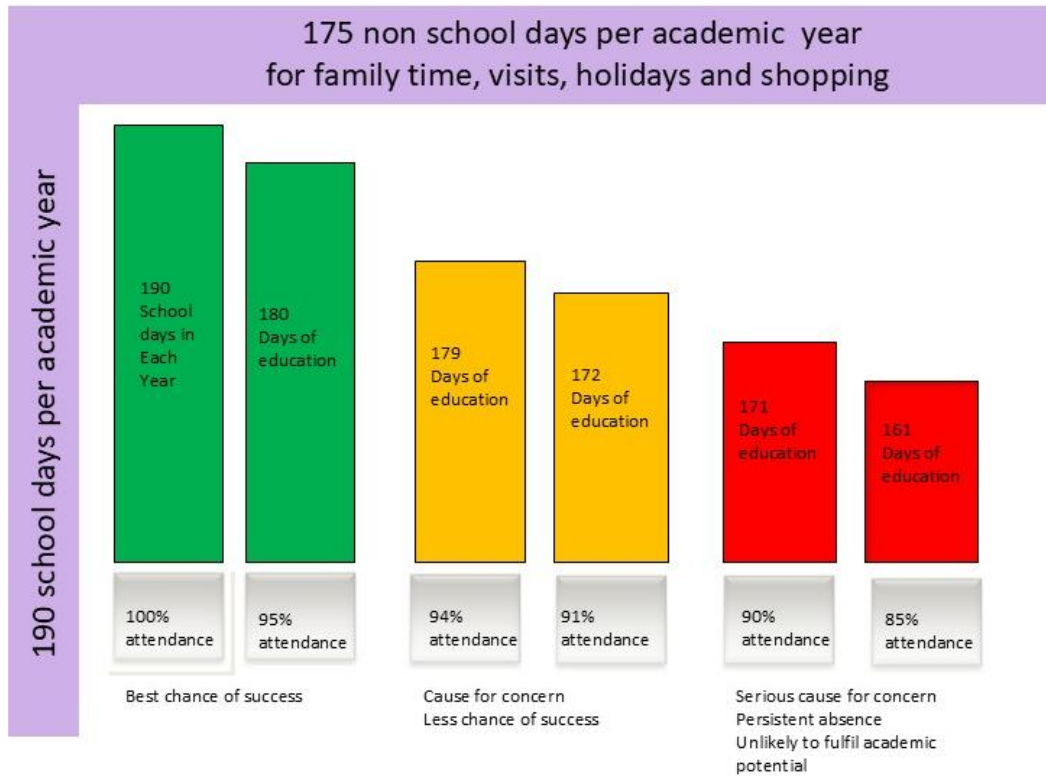
BCP Council  
School's Environment Award  
Platinum 2023



Coastal Learning  
PARTNERSHIP

# Good Attendance Means

being in school at least 95% of the time (between 180 & 190 days)



## Minutes of lateness can turn into days of lost learning day

Minutes late per day	= days of learning lost per year
5	3.2
10	6.5
15	9.5
20	12.5
30	19