

8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

There is some new advice from the Department for Education (DfE) for families around attendance that I thought it would be worth sharing.

The positive impact of children attending school is well known. This website [Everything you need to know about school attendance](#) further outlines the importance of regular attendance. At West Vale Academy, we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our children in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

We know that sometimes our children cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and others. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

I know that attendance can be a contentious issue and hopefully the above NHS link will help those difficult decisions around attendance. Of course, avoiding holidays in term time is another significant contributing factor towards reduced attendance. As a school, we have to recommend against unauthorised absences such as term-time holidays on all occasions.

We want to work with our families to achieve good attendance for all our children at West Vale Academy, and we appreciate that every family's situation is unique. As ever, teachers and leaders in school are available and happy to support if there is anything we can do to support you or your child.

Kind regards

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