



Dear Parent/Carer,

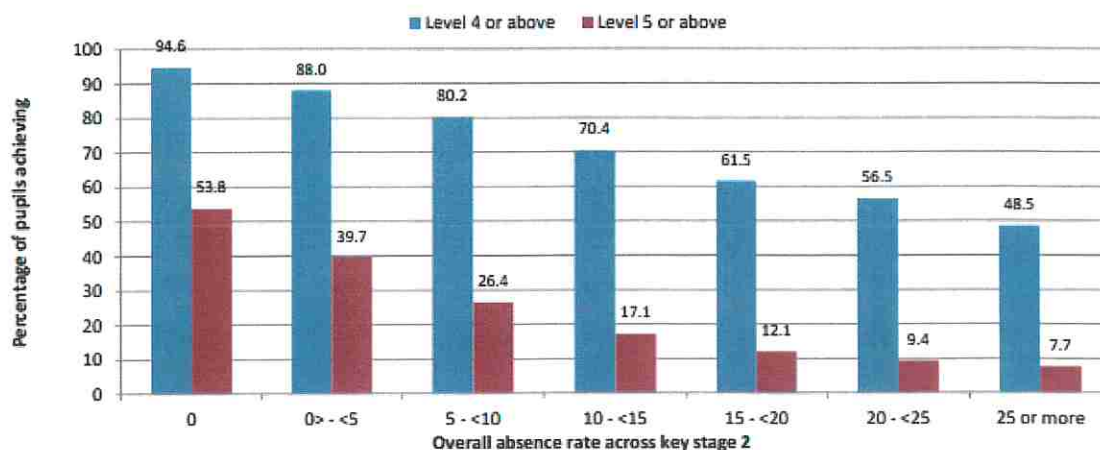
Now that we have almost finished the first term of the school year and pupils settled into new routines, it seems timely to provide a reminder about the importance of a strong attendance record at school for your child.

The evidence is clear: pupils with excellent attendance are less likely to encounter social difficulties and are far more likely to achieve strong academic outcomes than those pupils who are persistently absent from school. These facts are evidenced very strongly in the national statistics.

The official definition of persistent absenteeism is a record of less than 90% attendance. In real terms, whilst 90% may sound impressive, this is the equivalent of being absent for one school day every fortnight! Persistent absence can lead to children becoming socially detached, making it more difficult for them to build and maintain relationships with their peers and their teacher. This can affect their confidence, decrease their general levels of happiness, and diminish their sense of belonging here at school. This can lead to further absences, thus setting a damaging cycle in motion.

Furthermore, whilst we fully appreciate that a successful school experience is more than just SATs results, we wanted to share some data from the Department of Education.

Figure 1: Percentage of pupils in state-funded mainstream schools achieving stated levels at the end of KS2 in 2013/14 academic year by overall absence rate across KS2



There is also a clear correlation which reinforces the fact that the average grade increases still further the closer attendance is to 100%, and decreases as attendance falls below 90%.

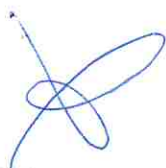
In this context it seems like an obvious statement to make, but the data shows us that attendance really does matter. If children are not in school, they miss learning episodes and those they are present for are disjointed and more difficult to comprehend. Considering that the extrapolation of 90% attendance over 4 years amounts to a child missing almost half a year of their education, it is not difficult to understand the huge impact that this has on their academic outcomes and therefore their prospects for life beyond Grange Juniors.

Finally, please note that this is not a targeted communication, sent only to the parents of children with attendance below a threshold level. We want to promote excellent attendance across the whole school and make sure that all of our pupils have the best chance of excelling in their time here at Grange Juniors

What is clearer now than ever before is that the absolute bedrock of this success, both socially and academically, is a strong attendance record – as close as possible to 100%.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the school office or the Inclusion Manager.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a cursive 'Burgess'.

P Burgess
Head teacher

EVERY DAY COUNTS

REMINDERS

- **All pupils should be at school before 8.45**, prepared and ready to start registration. Encourage every day attendance and good punctuality – talk to your child about the importance of good routines and habits and leaving enough time to get to school in the morning.
- **Routine medical appointments should be scheduled for after 3.00pm**. If an appointment must be arranged within school hours, inform the school office or your child's teacher with details well in advance of the appointment.
- **Report pupil absences before 9.00am** on the first day of absence by calling on 01252 542196. An answerphone will pick up calls left the previous evening.
- Complete the application form available in the school reception, to request absence for **exceptional future absences**.
- **Familiarise yourself with our Attendance policy** on the School website under policies.
- **Contact your child's teacher or the Inclusion Manager** if you have any concerns or questions about how we can help support your child to arrive at school on time each day.
- **Get in touch with us** if you have any questions, feedback or need help in accessing any of the resources mentioned above. Mrs Williams – Inclusion Manager at I.Williams@grange.hants.sch.uk

EVERY DAY COUNTS

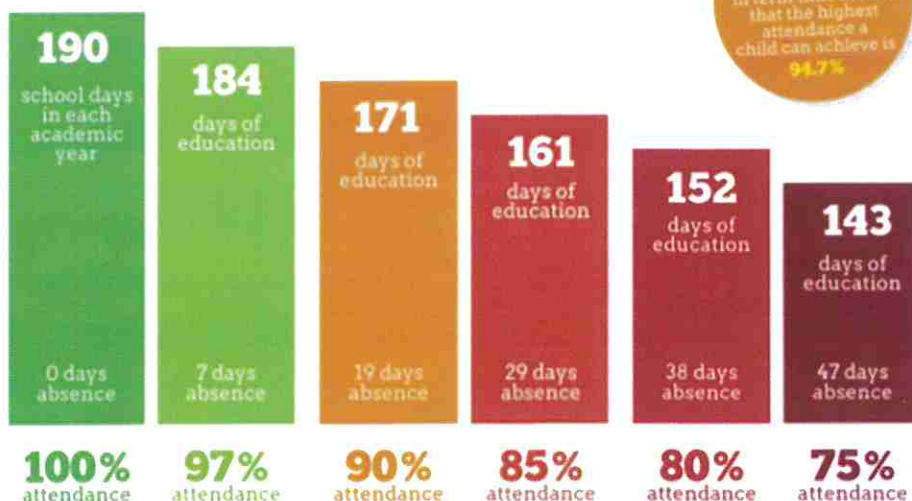
We want you to feel that you **belong** at Grange Juniors, to feel **valued** and help you be your **best** academically and personally. The range of opportunities at school will help you to develop the **life skills** needed for **success** at school and beyond.

Remember

Your education is important - don't miss out!

Did you know?

A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance a child can achieve is **94.7%**



There are **365** days in a calendar year

175 days are **not** spent at school*

*So there's plenty of time for shopping, holidays and appointments!

Well done

A good attendance gives you the best chance for success

I'm concerned

A poor attendance gives you less chance of success

Seriously worried

Very poor attendance has a serious impact and reduces life chances

Did you know...?

90% may sound great, but for attendance this is the equivalent of missing one day a fortnight, which is over half a year missed of your time in Grange.