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9th September 2021

Dear parents and carers

Parent and Carer update 9.9.21

Mrs Merriman

Family Support Worker and Attendance Lead



Hello! Pleased to meet you all. I'm Mrs Merriman and you may have seen me in a high viz jacket at the beginning or end of the school day on the playground. Do come over and say hello.

As the attendance officer for Ravensdale Junior School, I am responsible for ensuring the good attendance of all children who attend our school. I am likely to be the person who will contact you if we do not get informed of the reason for your child's absence from school, or if we have continued attendance concerns for your child.

As part of my role I ensure that school is following the advice from Educational Welfare and the guidelines set by the Department for Education. These responsibilities include phone calls home, home visits on occasions and discussions with Educational Welfare for further advice and support where attendance concerns continue. This can result in parents/carers being fined by Educational Welfare if their child's attendance does not improve.

We know that children can be reluctant to come to school, even if feeling slightly unwell. We would encourage you to send them and we will support them during the day. If any children are too unwell to continue in class during the day, we will of course 'phone you and ask you to collect them.

There will be times when we cannot authorise absences as they do not fall in line with our Attendance Policy (available on the website). If a child with no known medical condition has frequent and recurring absences, we will need to ask for medical evidence for absences to be authorised.

Headteacher: Zoe Cannon

Please be assured that at Ravensdale Junior School we want your child to feel happy and confident to come to school. Please do not hesitate to call me if you are unsure whether you should keep your child at home, or if you have any other concerns or questions regarding your child's attendance.

Please note: COVID pandemic

During these uncertain times with the COVID pandemic, we are having to be extremely careful when children display any of the main COVID symptoms. We will contact you if they have a cough, temperature or loss of taste and smell and are following the government guidelines to prevent the spread within school. We understand that this can be difficult and frustrating if your child is sent home but please support us in keeping our school as COVID free as we can.

Please do not send your child to school if they have these symptoms and call us for advice. Current advice advises that if a child displays COVID symptoms, they should isolate and access a PCR test. If positive they will need to isolate for 10 days. If negative the child may return to school.

If a family member tests positive it is NOT necessary for a child to isolate who is not showing symptoms and they should attend school. However, a PCR test is requested to confirm they are negative. The child may continue to attend school whilst waiting for this test and result (it will be classed as a medical appointment). If the result is positive, they will then need to isolate for the 10 day period and work will be provided by the school.

We would ask that parents/carers continue to contact us to get advice on any symptoms or positive cases within the household and we will advise you on the necessary procedures to take.

Thank you for your continued support.

Andrea Merriman

Mrs Andrea Merriman

Family Support Worker

Headteacher: Zoe Cannon