

Bredon Hill Academy

Learning Together for Success

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Assistant Headteacher

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Assistant Headteacher

Mrs K Dunkley, BA (Hons), NPQSL

Assistant Headteacher

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Dear Parents/Carers

Attendance Counts Evesham (ACE)

As I am sure you have seen in the national press recently the number of children not attending school on a regular basis is now a significant concern. The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, is warning that school absence rates have become "stuck at crisis levels". Last year, over 1 in 5 children were 'persistently absent', meaning they missed on average at least a day a fortnight in school, the Children's Commissioner revealed. Dame de Souza highlighted the importance of attending school saying "*Not only do schools equip children with the knowledge and qualifications they need for later life, but they are also places where children make friends, learn new hobbies, and build on their ambitions for the future. If we want to offer every child the best chance in life, it must start with ensuring that they can regularly attend school.*"

As a school, we share the Commissioner's view that school is not just important but that it is essential for a child's overall health and wellbeing and so we are committed to doing everything within our power to remove the barriers and challenges to attendance facing our young people and their families. This view is shared by our local schools and so we have agreed to work together as a group. We hope that by working together we will be able to share resources and ideas as well as provide improved support for our young people and their families. The name of our group is Attendance Counts Evesham (ACE) and consists of the following schools: Hanley Castle High School, Prince Henry's High School, TDMS, Bredon Hill Academy, Bengeworth CE Academy, Blackminster Middle School, St Egwin's CE Middle School, Honeybourne Primary School, Ashton School, Church Lench CE First School, Pebworth First School, St Andrew's CE School, St Richard's CE First School and Swan Lane First School.

We will be meeting on a half termly basis to review our current support and protocols surrounding attendance. We want to operate with one voice as we are fully aware that we have a number of families in the area with children attending our different schools. We will also be working alongside the local authority and our local health providers such as doctors, medical centres and dentists so that everyone is working as one to support our children. We will shortly be launching a competition to design our ACE logo. All the children in the different schools will be invited to enter with the winning designs being used together to create our final logo.

As a group of schools, we are very worried about the attendance situation. We are not alone in our concern and so we are all constantly looking to find different ways to support our children back into school. We are very excited about working together as we recognise that there is strength in numbers and working together as a group can only be beneficial for our children.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss D West
Headteacher

Mrs K Dunkley
Assistant Headteacher and DSL

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**