



Holly Hill
Church School

Life in all its Fullness

12th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Understanding and Promoting Good Attendance and Punctuality

This is a very uncomfortable letter to write but one that comes from my heart. I very much hope I can reach you as a parent and hope that together we can make changes to benefit our community.

I am sending this letter to all of my families so that we can all support those who need it most and recognise that some of us live in much more challenging circumstances than others. A loving community can be the difference to feeling valued and cared for in times of need. I have worked in this community for nearly 20 years and feel passionately that I need help to change a culture on the estate of poor attendance and punctuality.

My aim is to get all children in school every day they can and on time.

I want every family to care enough about their child's education to enable them to be the very best that they can be and have the very best chances in life; to fulfil their aspirations and dreams and look back and say 'My mum/dad/carer/whoever did the very best for me and gave me every opportunity to succeed in life'

As you can appreciate, taking holiday in school time has a huge impact on your child's progress. It absolutely puts gaps in your child's learning that cannot always be closed. Our teachers work above and beyond to try and close those gaps but there are many children with many gaps from many holidays and absence, so please, if you can, don't take your child out of school for a holiday. There are 13 weeks of the year we are not in school, please organise breaks within this time. *(I can hear you shouting at me how expensive it is to go then and I have no come back for that).*

At Holly Hill, never a day goes by when some children are not late for school. This impacts on all of the children in the class.

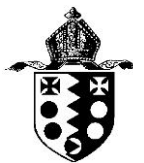
New Street, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham, B45 0EU

Tele: 0121 675 8700

Website: www.hollyhill.bham.sch.uk



Headteacher: Charlotte Taylor Deputy Headteacher: Mark Carr



This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

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A late child walks into a lesson that has already begun... 30 people are looking at them. The teacher breaks from teaching to welcome them and ensure they are ok. The other 29 children have their learning interrupted. Your child has missed part of the learning. The teacher has to re teach this so that your child can understand and succeed.

Every lesson builds on and consolidates learning. Every lesson they miss puts them behind. I cannot stress enough how important it is for your child to be here every day that they can be and to be here on time. I am asking for real change. Put the needs of your child first, don't blame your child for being late. Take responsibility for your child being the best that they can be. Work with me in raising attendance to over 96% and giving us the time we need in school to enable your child to make the best progress they can and live *Life in all its Fullness*.

Thank you for making this school a very special place to be, your kindness is often overwhelming and I feel blessed to be part of such a warm community, where children thrive and believe that they can make a difference in the world and where all staff go above and beyond.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Taylor
Headteacher

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