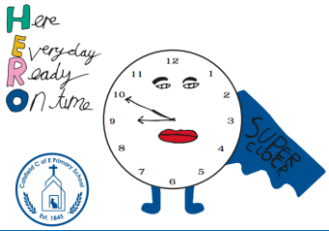
Attendance Update



Dear Families,

As we come to the end of another academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for your support and engagement in our drive to improve attendance. Your partnership has been invaluable, and the progress we have made together is something we can all be proud of.

Since launching our renewed attendance focus in February, we have worked hard to look beyond the numbers and understand the story behind each child's attendance figure. Attendance is about much more than a percentage; it is about recognising individual circumstances, celebrating progress and supporting every child to be in school as often as possible.

We are delighted to share that our whole-school attendance has increased from **92.1% in February to 93.4% today**. While we know there is still work to do, this improvement represents many additional days of learning for our children and reflects the commitment of pupils, families and staff working together. As a result of this collective effort, we are no longer in the **bottom 10% of schools nationally for attendance** and have moved into the **bottom 20%**—a significant step in the right direction.

One of our key priorities has been to celebrate success in all its forms. We firmly believe that every improvement matters and that every child deserves recognition for their efforts. For some children, success may mean receiving a trophy for attending school every day throughout the year. For others, it may be achieving 100% attendance for a week, improving their attendance compared to previous terms, or overcoming barriers that have made regular attendance more challenging. We celebrate every incremental gain because every step forward helps children to access the learning, friendships and opportunities that school provides.

In this final attendance newsletter of the year, you will find a range of articles, information and guidance designed to help support families in maintaining good attendance. We hope these practical tips and insights not only celebrate the progress we have made together so far but also help us continue this positive journey into the next academic year.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. Together, we have shown that small changes can make a big difference. We look forward to building on this success and celebrating even more achievements—big and small—in the year ahead.

Warmest wishes,

Lex Beckett

Acting Headteacher

Being On Time Matters Too

Being on time helps your child start the day calmly. It helps them learn, build routines and connect with their friends. When children arrive late, they can miss important information and feel unsettled. Our gates open at 8.45 with children having an early morning task

We understand that school mornings can be hectic. If getting to school on time is difficult, please talk to us. We can help with routines and find small changes that make mornings easier.

Being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing two weeks of school!

See our minutes lost calculator below to work out how much school you miss each year if your child is late:

Birthdays

We love celebrating special moments—and birthdays are certainly one of them! While it might be tempting to keep children at home on their birthday, we strongly encourage pupils to come into school and celebrate with their classmates.

Coming to school on their birthday helps children to:

- Celebrate with friends and feel part of the school community
- Enjoy special recognition from their class and teachers
- Maintain their learning routine and not miss important lessons
- Build happy memories linked to school

For many children, celebrating their birthday with their friends is one of the highlights of the school year.

Does Attendance Really Matter?

1 or 2 days a week might not seem like a lot but...

90% attendance means missing 1 day every two weeks

Over a year, that's almost 4 weeks of lost learning

Over primary school, that could be half a year missed

Good attendance helps children to:

- Feel more confident in class
- Build strong friendships
- Develop positive routines
- Achieve their very best academically

When Should My Child Stay Home?

We understand that children sometimes feel unwell. As a guide keep your child at home if they have:

- A high temperature
- Sickness or diarrhoea (stay off for 48 hours after the last episode)
- A contagious illness

If they've got a runny nose, slight cough or headache but no high temperature, they can usually still attend if they are otherwise well – and we'll keep an eye on them.

If you're unsure, use the NHS website to check if your child is well enough to attend school.

We understand that it can be difficult to decide first thing in the morning whether your child is well enough to attend school. Illnesses can often seem worse early in the day, and children may improve significantly after a few hours of rest.

Please be assured that we are here to help. If you are unsure whether your child should attend, you can always speak to us and ask that we keep a close eye on them during the school day. Equally, if you decide to keep your child at home in the morning and they begin to feel much better later in the day, they are welcome to come into school.

Our priority is ensuring that children are comfortable, supported and able to make the most of their learning. Staff are happy to monitor pupils who may be feeling under the weather and will contact parents if we have any concerns.

We are also able to administer Calpol in school, provided the appropriate permissions are in place. This can help children remain comfortable and settled during the day when needed.

If you are ever unsure, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Working together, we can make the best decision for your child while ensuring they do not miss out on valuable learning time unnecessarily.

Flu vaccine

Looking ahead to next academic year we encourage all families to consider the annual flu vaccination for their children. Flu (influenza) is not just a heavy cold—it can be a serious illness that spreads quickly, especially in school settings where children are in close contact every day. The flu vaccine is updated each year to protect against the most current strains It is quick and painless given as a nasal spray for children during the school day on **Friday 25th September**.

Please watch out for communication regarding how to book your child onto this which will shared at the beginning of Term 1.

The children who received this last Autumn had on average 1% higher attendance percentage than the school average.

UK Health Security Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, **search for health protection in schools** or scan the QR code or visit https://qrco.de/minfec.

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Looking ahead to next academic year

During the summer break, sleep patterns, mealtimes and daily structure become looser. This is completely normal, but this shift can make the return to school feel overwhelming. To help with this we suggest:

- Start resetting sleep schedules 3 to 5 days before school begins by moving bedtime and wake-up time earlier in small steps.
- Reintroduce familiar routines such as reading before bed, laying out clothes or having breakfast at the table.
- Limit screens for at least an hour before bed, as overstimulation can affect sleep quality, and plan a calm, structured first morning back to help them feel more confident.

We want every child to feel safe, settled and ready to learn. Being in school every day helps children build routines, make friends and grow in confidence. We know that some children feel worried about coming to school at times. This is normal, especially at the start of a new term or starting a new class, If attendance is becoming a struggle, please talk to us – we are here to help. We can work together to understand what is happening and agree a plan together. If needed, we can help you find support from other services.

Please remind your child it's normal to feel nervous sometimes. In most cases, coming to school helps children feel better. Being with friends and trusted adults can make worries feel smaller. We will look out for your child, listen to them and help them feel safe. We know some children may have stronger or longer-lasting feelings of anxiety. If this happens, we will work with you to support your child.

Term Time holidays

We understand that family holidays are important and can provide valuable opportunities for children to experience new places, cultures and activities. As a family, you may feel that a holiday represents an exceptional circumstance, particularly if it includes educational experiences such as visiting historical sites, museums or places of cultural interest. Some families may also choose to travel during term time to avoid peak-season costs and crowds, allowing children to access experiences that might otherwise be unaffordable.

However, schools are required to follow national attendance regulations and, under current guidance, we are unable to authorise holidays during term time, even when there is an educational element to the trip or when families are seeking to travel during quieter periods.

Department for Education guidance, "Working together to improve school attendance" says:

> *"Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance." (p.85)*

We know that this can be disappointing, and we appreciate that families may not always agree with the regulations. Our role is to apply the rules consistently and fairly for all families while supporting every child to achieve the best possible attendance.

If time off is taken but not authorised you may get a penalty notice fine or other legal action.

To help you plan ahead, you can find our term dates for the next two years on the next two pages plus our INSET days for next academic year.

If you have any questions or need support, please do contact us.We are here to help.

East Sussex
County Council

East Sussex School Term and Holiday Dates 2026-2027

Calendar view

The below table may not be accessible to screen readers. You can find the same information in text form on page 2.

	SEPTEMBER 2026					OCTOBER 2026					NOVEMBER 2026					DECEMBER 2026				
Monday	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
Tuesday	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
Wednesday	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
Thursday	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
Friday	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
Saturday	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	
Sunday	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	

	JANUARY 2027					FEBRUARY 2027					MARCH 2027					APRIL 2027				
Monday		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26
Tuesday		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Wednesday		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Thursday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	
Sunday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	

	MAY 2027						JUNE 2027					JULY 2027					AUGUST 2027					
Monday		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Tuesday		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31
Wednesday		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
Thursday		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	
Friday		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	

Key

- Staff training (INSET day)
- Start of term for pupils
- End of term for pupils
- Public holidays
- School holidays
- Transition week

INSET DAYS

Inset days 2nd, 3rd, 4th September 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Monday 22nd February 2027

East Sussex County Council

East Sussex School Term and Holiday Dates 2027-2028

Calendar view

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Tuesday	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
Wednesday	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
Thursday	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
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Saturday	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
Sunday	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	

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Monday		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24
Tuesday		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25
Wednesday		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26
Thursday		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Friday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
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Sunday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30

	MAY 2028					JUNE 2028					JULY 2028					AUGUST 2028				
Monday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
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Key

- Staff training (INSET day)
- Start of term for pupils
- End of term for pupils
- Public holidays
- School holidays
- Transition week - to be confirmed