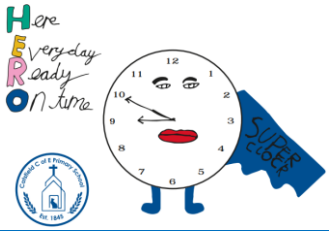
Attendance Update – Autumn 2026



Dear Families,

Welcome to the Autumn term edition of our Attendance newsletter. I am delighted to say that our overall attendance figure for term 1 was 96%. You may remember that our school target is 96% so it is fantastic to see that, together we have achieved this important milestone.

As we move further into Autumn, we know that there will naturally be a rise in the number of seasonal coughs, colds and bugs! To support you in making the decision about whether your child is well enough to attend school, this newsletter includes several articles designed to support.

We recognise that attending school is not always easy for some children. Children and families can face a wide range of challenges including illness, anxiety, changes in circumstances, friendship difficulties and other barriers that can affect attendance. Through our inclusion strategy, we are working hard to understand and remove these barriers so that every child feels safe, supported and able to engage fully in school life.

The most successful attendance strategies are built on strong partnerships between home and school. By working together, sharing concerns early and maintaining open communication, we can ensure that children receive the right support at the right time. Our aim is always to understand the reason behind an absence and work alongside families to find practical solutions that help children attend school regularly and confidently.

Following the introduction of our attendance procedures last year, we will continue to embed and develop these approaches throughout the current academic year. We are already seeing the positive impact that a shared focus on attendance can have, and we would like to thank families for their ongoing support and engagement. It was with a real sense of pride that I was able to distribute so many 100% Attendance Certificates at the end of last term – plus recognise individual successes of those children whose attendance journey has not always been easy.

This newsletter brings together key information about managing illness, supporting children who are feeling under the weather, returning after holidays, and the processes we have in place to support families. These approaches are designed not only to promote strong attendance, but also to ensure that every child feels included, understood and able to thrive.

Best wishes,

Lex Beckett

Headteacher

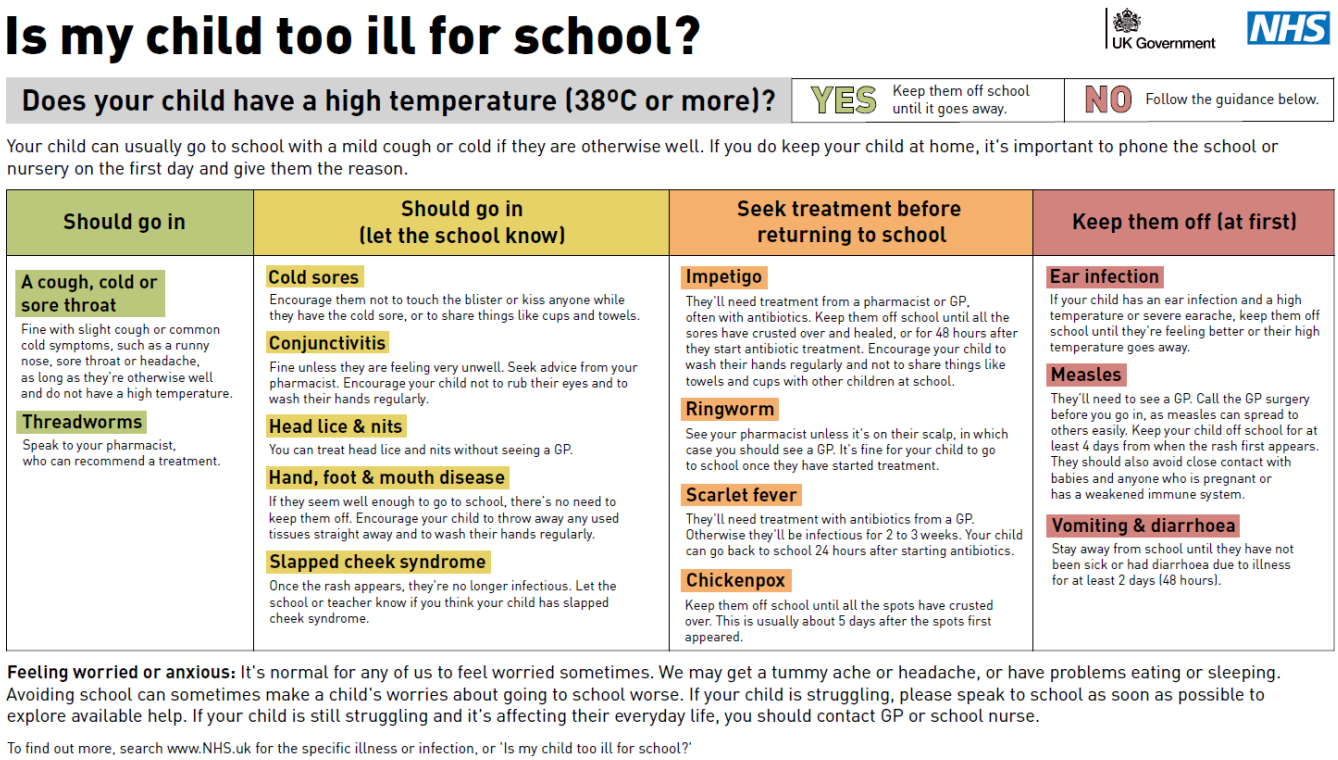
Managing illness

If your child is unwell, please phone the school before 9.00am to inform us of your child's absence; please don't email as there could be a delay in receiving messages. If you do not inform us of your child's absence we will contact you to find out where your child is.

We now operate a *"call back anyway"* policy. This means that whenever you leave an answerphone message or send us an email to report your child's absence, we will always contact you to discuss how your child is feeling and how we can best support their return to school. This may include considering reasonable adjustments, such as a later start time, support with administering medication, or any other measures that may help your child return to school comfortably and successfully.

Please note that we ask if your child's absence lasts longer than a day you call the office every subsequent day to update us on how they are doing.

The below image shows the latest NHS guidance on childhood illnesses and how they should be managed. We understand that it can be difficult to decide whether your child is well enough for school. In most cases, children with a mild cough, runny nose or cold symptoms can continue to attend school, where they can benefit from learning, routine and spending time with their friends. If your child is well enough to take part in the school day, we would encourage them to attend. If you are unsure, please contact the school and we will be happy to discuss your child's symptoms and any support that may help them remain in school comfortably and safely.



If your child becomes unwell during the day, we will contact you to come and collect them. Please ensure that we always have up to date telephone numbers for you.

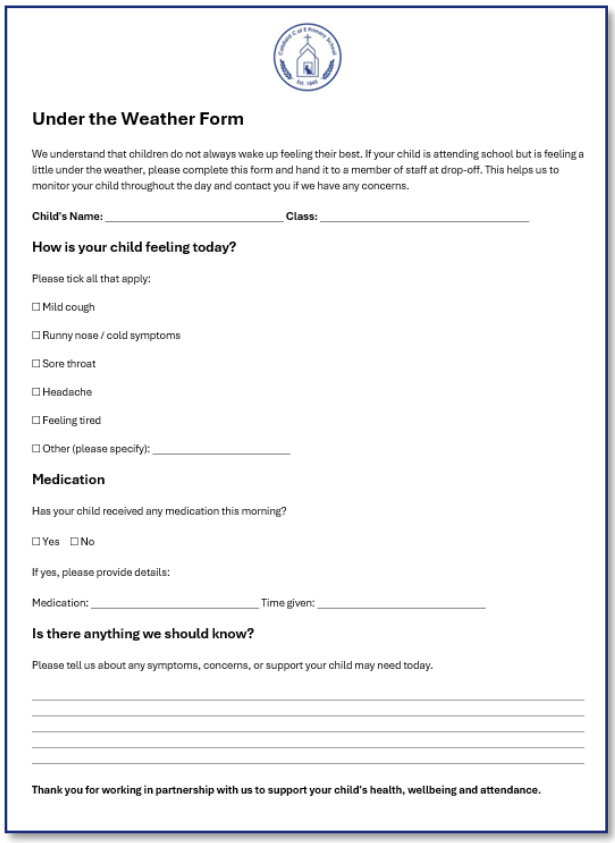
Don't forget if you missed the flu vaccine in school you can find how to make an alternative appointment here.

Feeling Under the Weather?

We know that children don't always wake up feeling 100%, and it can sometimes be difficult to decide whether they are well enough for school. We also recognise that many minor illnesses, such as coughs, colds and headaches, don't necessarily mean a child needs to stay at home.

To help us work together to support good attendance while ensuring children feel cared for, we are introducing an "Under the Weather" Form. If your child is attending school but is feeling a little unwell, you can complete the form at drop-off and hand it to a member of staff. The form allows you to let us know about any symptoms, medication given, or support your child may need during the day.

At busy drop-off times, it can be difficult to have detailed conversations with staff while ensuring all children are welcomed safely into school. We hope this will provide a quick and simple way for you to share any important information about how your child is feeling, any medication they have received, or any support they may need during the day. This will help us gather the information we need without parents having to wait for a member of staff to discuss concerns allowing drop-off to remain calm and focused on the children.



Under the Weather Form

We understand that children do not always wake up feeling their best. If your child is attending school but is feeling a little under the weather, please complete this form and hand it to a member of staff at drop-off. This helps us to monitor your child throughout the day and contact you if we have any concerns.

Child's Name: _____ **Class:** _____

How is your child feeling today?

Please tick all that apply:

☐ Mild cough

☐ Runny nose / cold symptoms

☐ Sore throat

☐ Headache

☐ Feeling tired

☐ Other (please specify): _____

Medication

Has your child received any medication this morning?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide details:

Medication: _____ Time given: _____

Is there anything we should know?

Please tell us about any symptoms, concerns, or support your child may need today.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you for working in partnership with us to support your child's health, wellbeing and attendance.

If possible, we encourage parents to avoid conversations at the school gate in front of the child about picking them up early. Sometimes children can become anxious or focused on the possibility of going home if that has been emphasised to them which can make it harder for them to settle into their school day. We would like to absolutely reassure parents that if your child is unwell, we will call you.

We hope this new approach will provide reassurance to families and support children to attend school whenever they are well enough to do so. The form is available to download here or you can get a hard copy from the members of staff on the gate each morning.

Feeling Better? Come On In!

If you decide to keep them home to rest and see how they are feeling and your child starts to feel better as the day goes on, please remember that they are always welcome to come into school, whatever the time of day. There is no need to wait until the next morning if they are well enough to return. Even attending for part of the day can be beneficial. It helps children stay connected with their learning, enjoy time with their friends, and maintain their usual school routine.

We will be happy to help with a smooth return to class. Every lesson counts, and we're always delighted to see children back in school as soon as they are feeling well enough to attend.

Keeping Our School Healthy

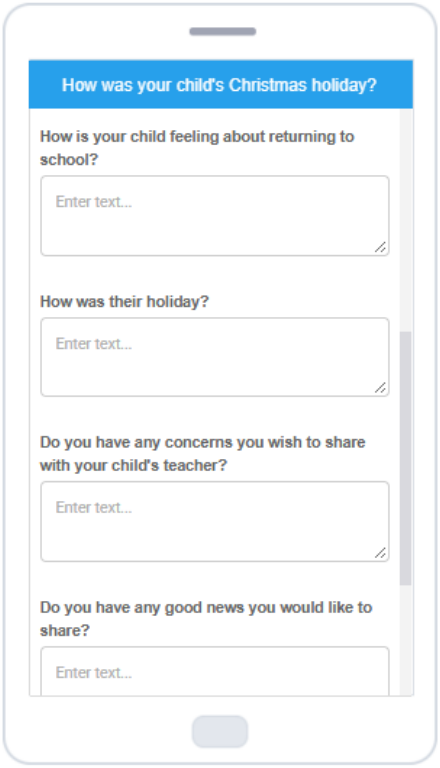
As we head into the colder months, we are working hard to keep our school environment as clean, safe and as free from bugs and illnesses as possible. Our staff continue to maintain high standards of cleanliness across the school, and we regularly remind children about the importance of good hygiene habits.

One of the simplest and most effective ways to reduce the spread of germs is regular handwashing. We will be encouraging children to wash their hands thoroughly throughout the day, particularly before eating and after using the toilet.

You may find the NHS handwashing video helpful to watch with your child as a reminder of how and when to wash hands properly.

How to wash your hands NHS song | NHS

How was your child's half term break?



We know that while holidays are an exciting time for many children, returning to school after a longer break can sometimes feel challenging. Children often come back with lots to share about special events, trips, family visits, achievements, worries, or changes that may have happened during the holiday.

To help us support children as they transition back into school, we are introducing a new "How Was Your Child's Holiday?" PING Form.

The form will be sent to families at the end of each longer holiday break and provides an opportunity to share any information that you feel would help us better understand and support your child when they return to school. This could include exciting experiences they would like to talk about, changes in family circumstances, achievements they are proud of, friendships they are looking forward to reconnecting with, or anything that may be causing them worry or anxiety.

Completing the form is entirely optional, but any information you share will be passed on to your child's teacher and relevant staff members, enabling them to provide a warm and informed welcome back to school.

We hope this simple communication tool will help strengthen the partnership between home and school, ensure children feel understood and supported, and make the return to school after the holidays as positive and successful as possible.

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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Monday	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27
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
Friday	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	27		3	10	17	24	31
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
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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