

## ATTENDANCE FOCUS - NOVEMBER 2024

This week our newsletter focus item is on school attendance. We hope that you find the information informative.

### MEET THE TEAM:

**Mrs Gant** is the Headteacher of Edwinstree school and she is also part of the attendance team. Mrs Gant attends attendance meetings, conducts meeting with parents and supports students who might be struggling with attendance.

**Mrs Heywood** is the attendance lead. She chairs the attendance meetings, meets with the local authority Attendance Officer and oversees the processes in school.

**Miss Harris** is the schools Mental Health lead. Miss Harris helps families overcome barriers to good school attendance and works closely with students to support them too.

**Mrs Wagstaff** organises and processes the day-to-day attendance registers. She is the lovely voice that you hear on the end of the phone when you call the school notifying about absences.

**Mrs Marler** is our school nurturer! She is known throughout the school community as someone who is warm and has a natural ability to connect with students. She conducts regular check-ins with students who need a little gentle encouragement and praises them often.

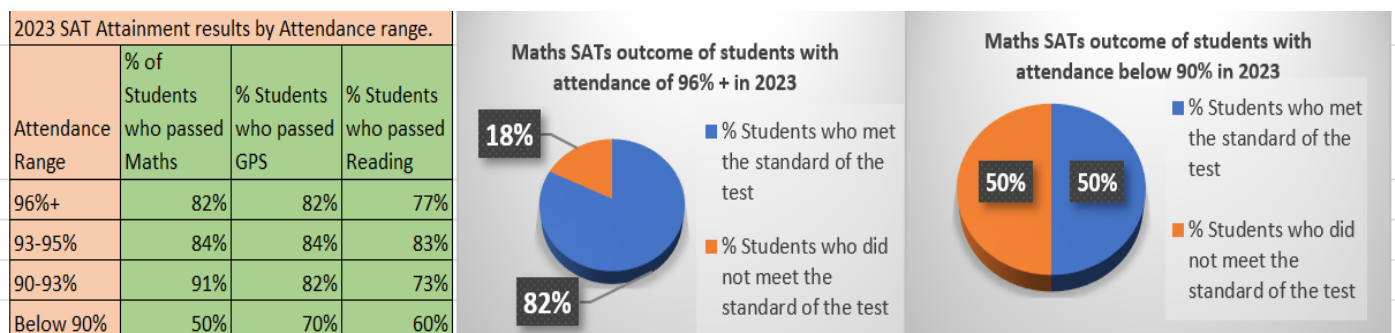
**Ms Lowther** is our school Governor who is specifically linked to attendance. She guides the school in decision making around policy and process and gently challenges the school when the need arises.

### CHANGES THIS YEAR:

There were changes to the national attendance guidance this year, including new school processes and an increased expectation that term time holidays cannot be authorised. This is reflected in the changes to the stepped approach to fixed penalty notices introduced by the local authority. A helpful guide to fixed penalty notices can be found: [hcc-sapt-statutory-attendance-helping-parents-understand-penalty-notice-fines-for-school-attendance-september-2024](#)

### ATTENDANCE AND ATTAINMENT:

We know that there is a proven link between attainment and school attendance and many studies have been conducted to support this. However, our own data analysis is the most powerful as it focussed on Edwinstree students!



The data above is from Edwinstree 2023 SATs results and shows the strong link between good attendance and SATs attainment levels.

### CHILDREN WHO ARE UNWELL:

We know that there will be times when your child will be too poorly to attend school, but many common illnesses can be managed at school. The NHS have produced useful guidance which can help guide you when you are unsure if you should send your child in. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORTS:

We routinely send out individual attainment reports and this academic year we will be introducing individual attendance reports too. Keep an eye on Satchel One where a report will be issued soon. We will let you know when it is available to view.

### WHAT CAN I DO IF MY CHILD NEEDS SUPPORT?

We know that sometimes children can be anxious, and some anxiety is normal, such as when a student has had a minor disagreement or has an upcoming assessment. However, if you feel that your child needs some extra support, or your child is struggling to get into school, please keep the communication lines open. We welcome parents honesty when attendance is becoming an issue and we will endeavour to do everything we can to remove the barriers. If you want to discuss attendance with one of the team just drop us an email – [attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

**THANK YOU**