

## ATTENDANCE FOCUS ~ SEPTEMBER 2025

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. She works closely with students and linked professionals to ensure families get the support they need.

**Mrs Wagstaff** organises and processes the day-to-day attendance registers. As a former nurse Mrs Wagstaff is also our lead on anything medical. She assists our students with complex medical needs and supports them in school to maintain strong attendance.

**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.

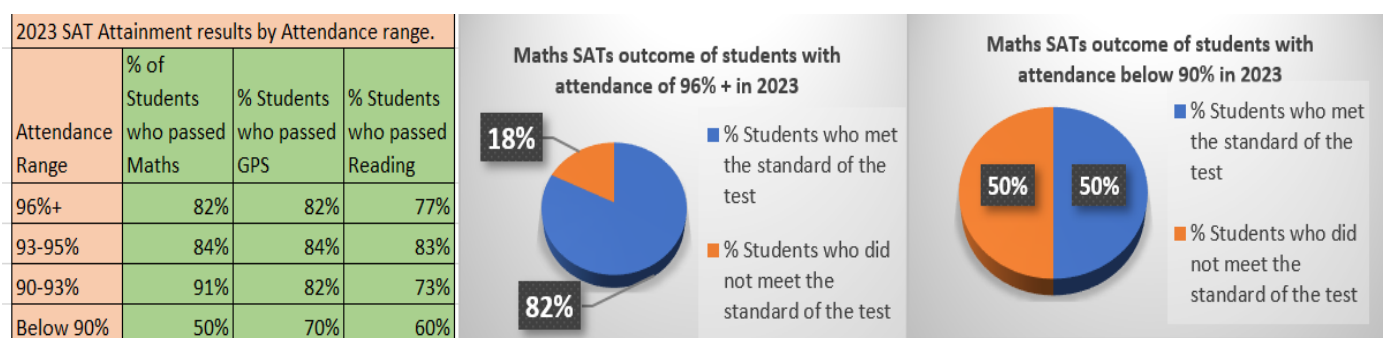
**Ms Lowther** is our school Governor who is specifically linked to attendance. She guides the school in decision making around policy and process and gently challenges the school when the need arises.

### NATIONAL ATTENDANCE GUIDANCE:

There were changes to the national attendance guidance last 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: [Penalty notices for unauthorised absence | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

### ATTENDANCE AND ATTAINMENT:

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:

There will be times when your child will be too poorly to attend, 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/>

### 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**