

Attendance Matters!

Summer 1 2026

As we welcome the children back to school after the Easter break, it's great to share that we have maintained **94.7%** as our average school attendance.

I know we can reach 95% this half term!

Thank you for supporting your child to attend school regularly. Your efforts are making a real difference – regular attendance helps children feel part of our school community, build strong friendships and achieve their full potential.





The classes with the highest attendance so far this academic year are:

Lower School: Holly Class 96%

Upper School: Arnhem Class 96.3%

100% Attendance Awards

The 100% attendance badges were awarded before the Easter break.

- 71 children received a bronze badge 
- 59 children received a silver badge 



Aim to arrive by 8.30am so your child has time to settle before registration at 8.45am.

Unauthorised Absence

Term-time Holidays

Please reconsider if you are planning a holiday during term time.

We understand the cost implications of booking holidays during school breaks, but taking your child out of school during term time can have a significant negative impact on their education and wellbeing.

Impact on learning and wider curriculum

Children often struggle to catch up on missed work alongside keeping up with new learning. They may feel behind their peers, which can affect their confidence. Teachers have limited time to provide individual catch-up support, which can create gaps in their understanding that affect their progress. Children may miss important experiences such as educational visits, performances, or special events. They could miss assessment opportunities that help us understand and support their progress

Disruption to friendships and social development

Children miss shared experiences with their classmates. They may feel left out of conversations and activities when they return. Regular attendance helps children build and maintain strong friendships.

Loss of routine

Breaking the learning routine can make it harder for children to settle back into school. Children may feel anxious about what they've missed. It can take time to rebuild good learning habits after an absence.

We recognise that family time is valuable, but regular school attendance during term time is one of the most important factors in your child's academic success and wellbeing. Please consider booking holidays during our scheduled school breaks.

Other Unauthorised Absence

Unauthorised absence includes any absence that hasn't been authorised by the school. Common examples include:

- Shopping trips or days out during school time
- Birthdays – keeping children off school to celebrate
- Looking after siblings or other family members
- Oversleeping or general lateness without a valid reason
- Extended family visits that are not for exceptional circumstances
- Absence without explanation – when parents haven't informed the school of the reason
- Truancy – when a child doesn't attend school without their parent's knowledge or permission

Key Information on School Attendance Fines

Threshold: A fine must be considered if a child has 10 unauthorised sessions (usually 5 days) of absence within a 10-school-week rolling period, including term-time holidays.

Penalty Costs: Fines are issued per parent, per child. They cost £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days.

Repeated Fines: A second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

Maximum Fines: Parents can receive a maximum of two penalty notices in a three-year period. If a third offence occurs, further action, such as a Parenting Order or prosecution, will be considered.

Court Action: If prosecuted, parents can face fines of up to £2,500, a community order, or a prison sentence of up to 3 months.

No Right of Appeal: There is no statutory right of appeal against a penalty notice, so any disputes must be directed to the school.

Reasons for Fines

Unauthorised Holiday: Taking holidays during term time without school permission.

Persistent Absenteeism: Frequent unauthorised absences.

Late Arrival: Consistently arriving after the register has closed.



Should I send my child to school?

It can be a challenge deciding whether to keep your child off school when they are unwell. This [NHS guidance](#) can help you decide.



Please report any absences to the school office by 9am

01252 314884 info@cambridgeschool.hants.sch.uk

If you are struggling to get your child to school, please contact

our Family Support Advisor: Mrs Vaiva

fsa@cambridgeschool.hants.sch.uk



See the useful [attendance guidance for parents/carers](#) from Hampshire County Council.