



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School,
St. Joseph's Way, Jarrow,
NE32 4PJ.
0191 5364311

www.stjosephsjarrow.co.uk
office@stjosephsjarrow.co.uk

 @stjosephsja
 @stj_teachingandlearning_ws

Head Teacher: Mr. P. Craig

Thursday, 18th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you about school attendance and the national (and local) crisis schools have faced since the pandemic.

Today, an unremarkable Thursday in the second week after the Christmas break, 5.8% of our pupils are absent. 17.2% of our Y6 pupils, who are getting ready for SATS in May, are absent.

Nationally, we have become used to these statistics and sadly, these patterns of absence have become the norm. Indeed, our attendance is above both national and local figures.

Totals and averages mean little other than to illustrate the problems we face in school. What matters most is your child's attendance.

Missing two weeks for a family holiday taken in term time will mean that your child has missed over **50 hours** of learning new things that they may never learn again, but will face questions on in the future. Having a broken attendance i.e. a day off every week or fortnight, on random days, means that pupils will miss **five hours** of new learning **each time** but will struggle to understand the work they do the following week as lessons are taught in sequence which relies on prior knowledge.

Poor attendance is a real concern, as highlighted by the Government's interventions this week. Please can I ask that if your child is absent from school regularly (pupils should be aiming for 100% attendance) you seek to address this and ask us for support if you are struggling with your child. For parents of Year 6 pupils with poor attendance, this is an urgent situation which needs addressing immediately.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Craig
Headteacher



Better Health
at Work Award
Bronze Award