



office@loughtonmanor.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Telephone: 01908 241472

01908 242085

Headteacher: Mrs Daniela Thompson M.A.

Paynes Drive
Loughton
Milton Keynes
MK5 8FA

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, school attendance is currently being discussed in the news and is high on the government agenda. Research has found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well (<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/05/18/school-attendance-important-risks-missing-day/>) . Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development.

During assembly yesterday, I spoke with Year One and Two children about when we should come to school and when we should stay at home. It can be difficult to decide if your child really is too unwell. The NHS web page called 'Is my child too ill for school?' has really helpful information on this:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Good attendance is classed as being 96% or above and this is our target within school. Each week we have a weekly attendance award for the class with the best attendance. Each half term, from December onwards, we will send home information regarding your child's attendance to enable you to keep track of this.

In the event that your child is unwell, please remember to report your child's absence by emailing us at: absence@loughtonmanor.milton-keynes.sch.uk by 8.30am.

It is important that you give us a specific reason for the absence as we are unable to authorise any absences without this information. Words such as 'unwell' and 'poorly' are not specific enough for us to accept.

We thank you for your continued support with this.

Kind regards,

Daniela Thompson

