



July 2024

## School Matters!



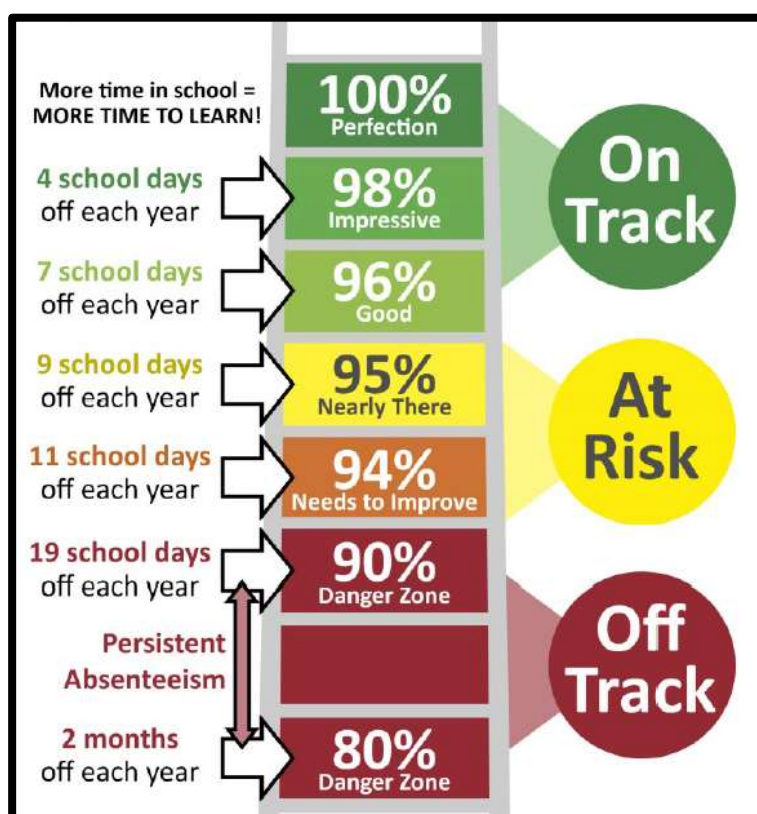
### Why is regular school attendance so important?

Summerswood works closely with children and parents in connection with attendance so that each child can achieve their full potential.

Once your child is registered at school, you are **legally** responsible for making sure that they attend regularly. If your child fails to attend school regularly, you risk getting a Penalty Notice Charge or being prosecuted.

You also need to think about the negative impact on your child's learning, their friendships, their self-esteem, and their confidence.

### Where does your child sit on the Attendance ladder?



There is a clear link between good attendance at school and achievement at school.

Nationally, only about 35% of children who miss 10%-20% (19-38 days) of school each year go on to achieve 5 GCSE's at grade 9 to 4 (A\*-C equivalent).

In other words, if your child misses 1-2 days of school every week (on average), there is about a 65% chance that they will not achieve 5 pass grades at GCSE level.

On that note, we would be delighted to receive ideas from you, our parents, as to how you think we could improve attendance across the school to reach the Government's expected target of 96%. **Currently, our whole school attendance is 93.2%**, so we still have a way to go before we reach this target. Please send any constructive suggestions via the Attendance email: [attendance@summerswood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@summerswood.herts.sch.uk)





## **Persistent Absence**

I wish to take this opportunity to explain further about what this term means. The government classify all children with an **absence percentage of 10% or more** as Persistently Absent, and that child's name will appear on a report that County request each term.

	<b>Days absent until classed as PA</b>
<b>Autumn Term:</b>	7+
<b>Autumn &amp; Spring Term:</b>	12½+
<b>Autumn, Spring &amp; Summer Term:</b>	19+ (this is logged on the child's permanent school record)

It is possible for a child who is Persistently Absent in the Autumn term to come off that report, provided that their attendance improves. Even as late at the beginning of the Summer term, there is time for child's attendance to improve above 90% provided that they attend school every day.

## **Punctuality**

The school gates open at 8.30am and children may go into class at 8.40am – class doors close at 8.50am and children are expected to be in class BY this time when registers are taken. If your child arrives between 8.50am and 9.20am, they will be marked as Late in the register. However, if your child is **late after 9.20am, it is marked in the register as an Unauthorised Late** and will affect their attendance percentage. This unauthorised absence will also count towards a Penalty Notice fine if your child has more than 7½ days of unauthorised absences/lates in the current and/or previous term.

## **Illness**

If your child is off ill for more than 2 days, you are required to call in on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (and subsequent) day of illness to update the school on their condition. Do not leave a message saying that your child is "unwell" or has a "fever" – our system requires more information, so please be precise: "my child has a temperature of 38.5degC and has a headache". If your child has high levels of illness, we may send out a letter requesting that you provide medical evidence for any further illness in order for us to authorise that absence. If you have already received one of these letters, we are happy to receive a stamped doctor's appointment card, copy of a prescription or a letter from the hospital/doctor – however, if we do not receive medical evidence, then the absence may be unauthorised and you may receive a Penalty Notice fine from County if your child has more than 7½ days of unauthorised absences in the current and/or previous term.

We really do need you, our parents, to work with us to improve our school's overall attendance and punctuality. If you have any concerns or wish to discuss anything about your child/ren's attendance, please feel free to contact our Attendance Champion at the school office, or via email: [attendance@summerswood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@summerswood.herts.sch.uk).







**Attendance is the responsibility of the whole community, not just of the school, and attendance really does matter – if your child is not in school learning, they are missing out on teaching that they may not be able to catch up on when they return. They also miss out on friendships and this may affect their self-confidence, which, in turn, can impact on their learning, so it becomes a cycle that is hard to break.**




**Let's work together as a whole community to improve Summerswood's school attendance – we can do it...!**



# I NEED TO STAY AT HOME IF...

						
<b>FEVER</b>	<b>VOMITING</b>	<b>DIARRHOEA</b>	<b>RASH</b>	<b>HEAD LICE</b>	<b>EYE INFECTION</b>	<b>HOSPITAL STAY/ VISIT TO A&amp;E</b>
Temperature of 38°C (101°F) or higher is classed as a fever	Within the past 48 hours	Within the past 48 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Itchy head, active head lice	Redness, itching and/ or “crusty” drainage from eye	Hospital stay and/or visit to A&E

# I AM READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN I AM...

						
<b>FEVER</b>	<b>VOMITING</b>	<b>DIARRHOEA</b>	<b>RASH</b>	<b>HEAD LICE</b>	<b>EYE INFECTION</b>	<b>HOSPITAL STAY/ VISIT TO A&amp;E</b>
Fever free for 24 hours without the use of temperature reducing medicine, i.e. Calpol, Ibuprofen	Free from vomiting for 48 hours	Free from diarrhoea for 48 hours	Free from rash, itching or fever – I have been evaluated by my doctor, if needed	Treated with appropriate lice treatment at home – if done early in the morning, I may return to school for PM session	Obtained eye drops/ ointment from pharmacy & used at home for at least 24 hours	Released by medical professional to return to school – provide evidence if necessary