

19<sup>th</sup> January 2018



Dear Parent/Carer,

Following our recent attendance reward event, there were some questions from parents about why we reward attendance and I wanted to clarify what school policy is around attendance and some of the things that we do and why.

In 2013, Russell Hall attendance was 93% and a contributing factor to school receiving a judgement of Requires Improvement. In 2014, we introduced a number of rewards for attendance which have continued over the past 3 years and we are now at 96% attendance which is just at national average. This would strongly suggest that rewarding attendance has been successful. Most other schools reward attendance and also find this successful.

Whilst we understand that children can't help being ill and at such times, they may need to be at home, parents also tell us of the positive influence that attendance rewards have on children's resilience because they don't want to miss out. Parents have commented that, where previously their child may have wanted to stay at home for small ailments, they are now more keen to come to school so that they don't break their good attendance record.

That said, we always talk to children at reward times about the fact that they may have missed the reward this time but there will be other opportunities for them to achieve it. It is for this very reason that we try to vary the attendance rewards that we give. We have:

- Class attendance
- Attendance challenge weeks
- Termly attendance
- Annual attendance

This should hopefully mean that everyone has a chance to achieve something.

At the end of the Spring Term, any child with 100% attendance for the term will receive an Easter Egg. There will also be an attendance challenge week at some point this term, where your child could receive a wrist band for 100% attendance. We will let you know when this will be.

I continue to work hard to make the school the best that it can be for your children and I thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

Andrea Grist  
Headteacher