



Barrow CEVC Primary School

Inspire, Create, Discover, Together

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Headteacher: Mrs H Ashe BA (Hons)



13th September 2023

Dear Reception Parent and Carers

Even when you're very small, good attendance makes a BIG difference!

Although education is not compulsory until the age of five, at Barrow Primary School we take the children's attendance very seriously and have high expectations of children being in school every day for *all* of our year groups, including Reception. Indeed, the Government are now tracking attendance for Reception children and the latest research shows that children in the Early Years have little chance of catching up with their peers if their attendance is poor; children who fail to succeed early on in their school careers are likely to get further behind.

It is imperative, therefore, that children in Reception are at school during this incredibly important and informative year, in order to build social skills and good behaviours for learning in a fun and stimulating environment. The Early Years classroom provides a broad range of age-appropriate, structured sessions and opportunities to learn. It is during this time that your child will be introduced to phonics and early reading, numbers and writing skills and so it is vitally important that you endeavour to ensure that your child is present in school every day. In addition, this is the year where good habits for school routines are made; for some the early starts and the quick breakfasts are a battle, where as others are building the resilience for a full 5 day week. Whatever the struggle though, good habits are being made for a successful school career.

We do appreciate that children are poorly from time to time, but would encourage you to have your child in school as soon as they are well enough to return. Please refer to our Illness Policy online for further guidance on timescales for absence. If you require any further information about absence from school generally, including information around families taking term time holiday, you will find our Attendance Policy on the school website.

If you have any questions regarding Early Years attendance, please do contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Woodland
Assistant Headteacher