



THE BLUE SKY
FEDERATION

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

July 2026



ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

It was brilliant to see 239 children across both schools enjoy the bouncy castle last Friday as they completed the full attendance challenge. Being in school every day, on time for five weeks helps them to be the best they can be, everyday!

90 children completed four full weeks and so enjoyed 10 green points, a special sticker, a lucky dip and an extra break!

Overall, 92% of the children in the Blue Sky Federation achieved 4 full weeks or more!

IMPORTANT POLICY CHANGE (holidays less than 5 days)

Thinking of taking your child out of school on holiday for 3 or 4 days because you won't get fined?

New guidance from the local authority has advised us when a holiday of 3 or 4 days has been taken, any unauthorised absences in the next 12 weeks may trigger a fine.

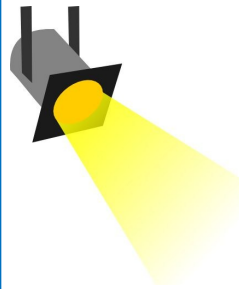
For example, if your child had 4 days off on holiday, they only need to have 1 day unauthorised in the next 12 weeks for a fine to be issued. Likewise, if your child is on holiday for 3 days, 2 unauthorised days in the following 12 weeks will also trigger a fine. **PLEASE NOTE: ALL ABSENCES WILL REQUIRE EVIDENCE TO BE AUTHORISED DURING THIS 12-WEEK PERIOD. THIS INCLUDES IF YOUR CHILD IS ILL.** We will continue to request evidence of illness the weeks either side of a holiday.



THE SCHOOL DAY— START TIMES

The school day at **Heelands** starts at **8:30am**, when children begin important early morning learning. Registers close at **8:45am**. Children arriving between **8:45am and 9:00am** will receive a **late mark**. Children arriving after **9:00am** will receive an **unauthorised absence**.

The school day at **Summerfield** starts at **8:45am**, when children begin important early morning learning. Registers close at **9:00am**. Children arriving between **9:00am and 9:15am** will receive a **late mark**. Children arriving after **9:15am** will receive an **unauthorised absence**.



SPOTLIGHT ON....

WHEN IS AN ABSENCE AUTHORISED?

What proof might you need to have an absence authorised?

A school does not have to automatically authorise every absence.

However, where attendance is good (over 96%), absences for sickness will usually be authorised. Where attendance is a concern, evidence of illness may be requested in order for the school to authorise an absence.

Examples of evidence include:

A doctor's appointment

A visit to the chemist

A prescription for medication

Photo showing the child has a temperature

When won't an absence be authorised?

- Routine dental appointments
- shopping during school hours
- special occasions, e.g. birthdays;
- no uniform, shoes, etc.;
- overslept;
- haircut;
- false illnesses;
- at home due to family illness;
- children arriving at school after the register has closed;
- family holidays;
- A bad night's sleep

ATTENDANCE SCRUTINY



ATTENDANCE PERIOD

01/09/2025—13/07/2026

CLASSES	PERCENTAGES
BUTTERFLIES	94.10
BEES	96.70
ANTS	95.70
FIREFLIES	94.80
POLAR BEARS	95.20
PENGUINS	95.10
TIGERS	95.40
LIONS	96.90
BADGERS	97.30
OTTERS	95.10
EAGLES	96.60
OWLS	93.40
SHARKS	96.40
DOLPHINS	95.50
SQUIRRELS	85.30
WHOLE SCHOOL	95.30

Attendance Ladder

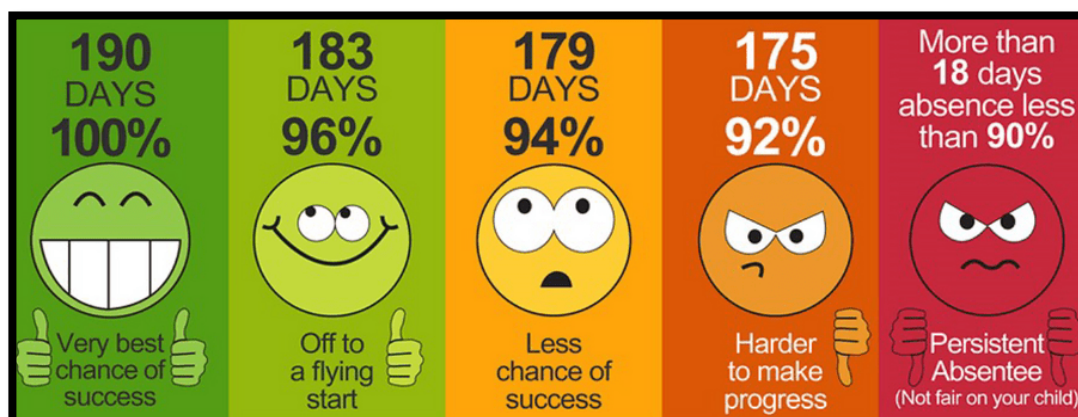
Equates to:



ATTENDANCE PERIOD

01/09/2025—16/07/2026

CLASSES	PERCENTAGES
ASH	91.6
MAPLE	91.6
OAK	94.4
WHOLE SCHOOL	92.6



Mrs Stuart (Behaviour and Attendance Lead)