

## **The Federations of Ripley Endowed CE, Beckwithshaw, and Kettlesing Felliscliffe Primary Schools**

1<sup>st</sup> October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Attendance**

As we settle into the term, we want to share a quick update on our whole-school attendance and revisit why coming to school every day makes such a big difference for your child.

Our school attendance target for this year is 97.5% or higher, in line with Government targets. While we know seasonal bugs and illnesses happen, every single day in the classroom helps build your child's knowledge, routines, and confidence.

### **The Impact of Lost Learning**

It can be easy to view an isolated day off or a few late arrivals as minor, but small amounts of missed time add up quickly over the school year.

| <b>Attendance Rate</b> | <b>Days Missed per Year</b> | <b>Lessons Missed</b> | <b>Impact on Learning</b>                                |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>95%</b>             | 9.5 days                    | 47 lessons            | Minimal impact; easy to catch up                         |
| <b>90%</b>             | 19 days                     | 95 lessons            | Equivalent to <b>4 full weeks</b> of school missed       |
| <b>85%</b>             | 28.5 days                   | 142 lessons           | Significant gap in key reading, writing, and math skills |
| <b>80%</b>             | 38 days                     | 190 lessons           | Equivalent to missing <b>more than half a term</b>       |

(Note: The government classifies attendance at or below 90% as **persistent absence**).

### **Why Punctuality Matters Too**

Arriving on time is just as vital as coming in every day. Children often tell us that walking into class late feels embarrassing or overwhelming. The first 15–20 minutes of the morning are when teachers outline the lessons for the day and children complete morning learning activities (e.g. Maths, spelling and English tasks), and help pupils settle in alongside their peers.

- 5 minutes late each day = 3 full days of lost learning over the year.
- 15 minutes late each day = 2 full weeks of lost learning over the year.

### **Quick Tips for Smooth Mornings**

1. Prep the night before: Pack school bags, lay out uniforms, and check reading books before bedtime.

2. Set a screen-free bedtime routine: A consistent sleep schedule makes waking up much easier.
3. Reach out early: If your child feels anxious or reluctant to come to school, speak to us. We are here to work together and support your family.

## Is My Child too Ill for School?

### Is my child too ill for school?



**Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?** **YES** Keep them off school until it goes away. **NO** Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

| Should go in                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Should go in<br>(let the school know)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Seek treatment before<br>returning to school                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Keep them off (at first)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <b>A cough, cold or sore throat</b><br>Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.<br><br><b>Threadworms</b><br>Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment. | <b>Cold sores</b><br>Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.<br><br><b>Conjunctivitis</b><br>Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.<br><br><b>Head lice &amp; nits</b><br>You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.<br><br><b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth disease</b><br>If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.<br><br><b>Slapped cheek syndrome</b><br>Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome. | <b>Impetigo</b><br>They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.<br><br><b>Ringworm</b><br>See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.<br><br><b>Scarlet fever</b><br>They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.<br><br><b>Chickenpox</b><br>Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared. | <b>Ear infection</b><br>If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.<br><br><b>Measles</b><br>They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.<br><br><b>Vomiting &amp; diarrhoea</b><br>Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours). |

**Feeling worried or anxious:** It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search [www.NHS.uk](http://www.NHS.uk) for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

## Reporting an Absence

If your child is genuinely too unwell to attend:

- Contact the school office by 9am on each morning of absence.
- State your child's name, class, and the specific reason for absence.
- For non-urgent medical appointments, please schedule them outside of school hours where possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping our pupils learn, socialise, and thrive every single day.

Warmest Regards



Miss V Kirkman  
Executive Headteacher