

# MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Children's attendance at St. Stephen's Junior School matters to us and the launch of a new national campaign called "**Moments matter, Attendance Counts**" gives us an opportunity to let you know as parents and carers, some of the things we are doing in school and how we manage children's attendance.

The first and perhaps most important word we use is 'Support'. Supporting our children back to school particularly after a long absence but also to support parents in encouraging children into school and working through minor illnesses and providing support and direction when help is needed.

Did you know that.....

- Every week we go to one class and give them the attendance cup. This is not always the 'best' attending class but sometimes improving and effort is rewarded too. The children have become very competitive about this and regularly ask us how their class is doing.
- We give rewards for those children who are regular high attenders but also those children who make a real effort and improve their attendance or who make it into school in good time.
- We can support children through bouts of minor and seasonal illnesses to encourage resilience and helping them cope through these whilst still attending school. See the latest NHS guidance on minor illnesses and whether to send your child to school [https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)
- We encourage regular and effective handwashing and ensure that spaces are well ventilated. We also use CO2 monitors to manage good ventilation.

The link between attendance and attainment is clear but also regular school attendance fosters positive relationships with their peers which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing. Every day at school is important for children to be in an environment where they feel that they belong and are valued. Moments really do matter, we experience, witness and hear these moments every single day and regular attendance really does make a difference.

Should you need support or advice about your child's attendance at school, please do contact the school office and one of our staff will be available to talk with you. Our Attendance policy is also available on our website [www.ststephensjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.ststephensjuniorschool.co.uk)

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