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# Redland School News

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Dear Mums, Dads and Carers

I'm sure you are all looking forward to the holidays! It has been a hectic start to the term and this break will be appreciated by everyone.

## ATTENDANCE

We are always aiming to improve attendance here in Redland. As a school we set a target of 96% attendance levels. This is ambitious but certainly reachable for each and every one of our children.....with your support.

A significant number of children have attendance levels of 95%-100% and they deserve lots of praise and congratulations. Obviously when children are really poorly, absence from school is unavoidable. What we want to stamp out is a pattern of absence for minor, mild ailments which calls for nothing more than resilience and stamina!!

If your child misses too many "odd" days the following concerns arise:

- Children are unable to access important parts of their curriculum and they can miss out on huge chunks of work and have gaps in their learning.
- Children miss out on friendship groups
- It becomes much harder to get into good working and learning habits
- Absence becomes "the norm" and the future - both in secondary and employment will be difficult with poor attendance!!

Clearly there are times when children should not come to school when ill, but the facts and data suggest that there is frequently one or two absences which should be avoided.

## Holidays in Term Time

By taking holidays in term time, huge chunks of learning and curriculum coverage is missed.

- I will not authorize any holidays if your child has had a number of days out of school for previous illness.
- If you choose to take a holiday in September - you are causing huge problems for your child/children - settling into new routines, forming friendship groups and getting to know the new teachers becomes very difficult!!

**The following chart clearly shows what your End of Year Attendance Percentage means. There are 190 days in a school year.**

Percentage %	How much have you missed	
	School Days	School Weeks
99	1	
97	5	1
94	10	2
92	15	3
89	20	4
86	25	5
84	30	6
81	35	7
78	40	8

This table clearly shows you the real implications of time away from school.

I will be writing to parents whose children's attendance has fallen below 90%

**HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Thank you to everyone for their kind and generous donations for the harvest produce sale. We raised £70 for the Special Care Baby Unit in Bath RUH.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Please remember that the Christmas gift boxes must be handed in to school by Friday 13th November.

**RECEPTION INTAKE SEPTEMBER 2010**

A reminder to those parents who have a child due to start school in September 2010 - please ensure you have either applied for a place on line or completed and sent back an application form. **The deadline date is noon on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November.**

**FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

Please contact the office if your child is eligible to receive a free packed lunch. Our packed lunches are made fresh every day at school with a wide choice of fillings.

**BIG BAGS**

As you know our cloakroom areas have very limited space. Can you please ensure your child only brings a book bag, P.E. Bags and a lunchbox to school. Any big bags will be removed from the area and given to your child to take home at the end of the day.

**PARKING**

Can you please be careful and considerate when you are parking to drop off or pick up your child from school. It would be better to park a little further away from the school to ease congestion and fraught nerves rather than having your car damaged.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

All orders must be brought into school by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November. This is to ensure that you have the photographs to include in your Christmas mail.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Our congratulations go to Tom Perkins (Cameron's Dad) who took part in the World Triathlon Championships in Australia. Our dad, Tom Perkins came 6<sup>th</sup> in his class in the championships and he is our real Redland champion. The next big competition is in the European championships in Ireland in July 2010. Good Luck Tom!

**FOOTBALL SUCCESS**

A great big round of applause and congratulations to our Redland Football Team!! They reached the finals of the Under 11 Beaversbrook Football Festival eventually losing on penalties. We still qualified for the County finals in January.

**ILLNESS IN SCHOOL**

This may now sound like a contradiction following the section on attendance!! We have been hit with the "bug" which brought about 35 pupils being absent on Monday and Tuesday. I hope the holiday gives us the opportunity to finally rid ourselves of all the germs and recover from the coughs, colds and sore throats!

Have a restful, healthy half term!

Best Wishes