



Aston Fields Middle School

Striving for Excellence: Learning for Life

September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families had a lovely summer and that your children have enjoyed a positive start to the new school year.

I would like to begin by thanking you for the excellent start to the academic year. It has been wonderful to see our pupils returning to school so positively, settling into their new year groups and getting back into the routines of school life. We really appreciate the support that parents and carers give us in helping children to attend school regularly and arrive ready to learn.

As we settle into the new academic year, I would like to take the opportunity to remind families about the importance of regular school attendance.

Every day in school matters. Regular attendance gives children the best possible opportunity to make progress, keep up with their learning, develop positive relationships and take part fully in the wider life of the school. We know that attendance can sometimes be affected by illness, family circumstances or other difficulties, and we want to work with families to overcome any barriers wherever we can.

If your child is absent from school

If your child is unable to attend school, parents/carers must contact the school on every day of the absence.

When reporting an absence, please let us know:

- the reason why your child is unable to attend;
- the expected length of the absence or when you expect your child to return; and
- if your child remains absent, please provide an update each morning.

Please contact us before 8.50am on 01527 876 026.

It is important that we receive this information each day. This enables us to maintain accurate attendance records and, importantly, helps us to ensure that we know where our pupils are and that they are safe.

If we have not received a reason for an absence, we will contact you to establish why your child is not in school.

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ACE School of
CHARACTER

Headteacher: Mrs A. Hales BSc (Hons), PGCE, NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J. Birrell BSc (Hons), QTS
Deputy Headteacher: Mr G. Hall BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQSL
Drummond Road, Bromsgrove, B60 2ET

Email: office@astonfields.worcs.sch.uk Website: www.astonfields.worcs.sch.uk Tel: 01527 876026

Autumn and winter illness

As we move towards the autumn and winter months, we know that coughs, colds and seasonal illnesses can become more common. We completely understand that there will be occasions when a child is genuinely too unwell to attend school.

The NHS has produced helpful guidance for parents and carers about when it is appropriate for a child to stay at home and when they are well enough to attend school. We would encourage you to use this guidance if you are unsure:

NHS – Is my child too ill for school?

Where a child does need to stay at home because they are unwell, please remember to contact school every day of their absence, giving us the reason and an indication of when you expect them to return.

If your child has an ongoing health condition or there are particular circumstances that are making regular attendance difficult, please speak to us. We would much rather work with you to understand the situation and identify appropriate support than allow attendance difficulties to become established.

Term-time absence

We would also like to remind families that holidays and other non-essential absences should not be taken during term time.

The school cannot routinely authorise or endorse term-time holidays. Requests for leave of absence during term time will only be considered where there are exceptional circumstances, in accordance with our attendance policy and statutory guidance. We strongly encourage families to arrange holidays and other appointments outside of school time wherever possible.

Working together

Our approach to attendance is about much more than attendance percentages. We want every child to be able to access their education, make progress, develop friendships and enjoy the opportunities available to them at Aston Fields Middle School.

We recognise that there can sometimes be genuine barriers to regular attendance. If you are finding it difficult to get your child into school regularly, please talk to us. Our aim is to work in partnership with you to understand what is happening and identify the right support as early as possible.

Thank you once again for your continued support and for the very positive start to the new academic year. Good attendance is something that we can achieve together, and your support makes a significant difference to your child's experience and success at school.

We look forward to a happy, successful and productive year ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Louise Wildsmith

Assistant Headteacher