



**Bredbury St Mark's Primary School**  
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## ATTENDANCE IN EARLY YEARS

Dear Nursery and Reception Parents/ Carers

Firstly, we would like to welcome all of our children starting with us in Nursery and Reception and are looking forward to the start of their academic journey.

The Government expectation is that parents/ carers ensure children attend school regularly. Any attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence and schools are required to take action where they fall into this category.

The national average for attendance (pre covid times) was 95.7% so we set our target just above at 96%. Last year, despite the difficulties Covid caused for schools, we worked incredibly hard to achieve this target. Unfortunately, we finished the year on 91%.

Good attendance is important to us at Bredbury St Mark's, not only does this impact on any Ofsted inspection in the future, but it is imperative to your child's academic achievements. As you know, the school has a legal duty to ensure good attendance.

Our attendance for Early Years (Nursery & Reception) was a concern last year. Attendance in these classes can often be lower than the rest of the school and also our target of 96%. However, we take pride in striving for success and want to make this an area of improvement this year.

Early Years are hugely important to children. It is not simply a time to play. It is the time we lay foundations to help children achieve well at school. Our data and national research show that children who don't achieve well in Nursery and Reception, often find it very difficult to catch up later in life.

We trust we can rely on your support in ensuring your children attend school on time, every day.

Regards,

Mrs Halfpenny

Attendance Lead

