



SPARKEN HILL
ACADEMY

September 2025

To all Parents & Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child to Foundation Stage 1! I hope that this provides a super start to your child's education. We are committed to providing all children with the best start in life and good school attendance is an essential key factor in ensuring that children make the best of their education. At Sparken Hill Academy, we expect all of our children to achieve and maintain a minimum annual attendance of 97%.

We appreciate that attendance at nursery is non-compulsory. However, research suggests that these formative years are absolutely crucial for future educational success. In order to give your child the best possible life chances and start to their education, I strongly urge you to ensure that your child attends school every day. Not only will this guarantee that they reach their full learning potential, it also enables them to maintain their friendship groups.

When your child enters Foundation Stage 2 (full-time school), it becomes a legal responsibility (in accordance with Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996) for parents to ensure that their children receive a 'proper full time education'. If children fail to attend school regularly and punctually, the Local Authority could take legal proceedings against parents or issue them with a Penalty Notice, which incurs a fine payable to the Local Authority.

We actively promote good attendance in school and have a huge array of incentives to reward good attendance and punctuality! Please see our weekly attendance newsletter, which shows just a few of the attendance incentives we have in school.

As an additional supportive measure, I ask my staff to carry out home visits where I feel a pupil's attendance is a cause for concern. If you ever experience any difficulties, which affect your child's school attendance, please contact our Attendance Advisor Mrs Harris who is able to offer information and support to alleviate any barriers, which may prevent your child from attending school.

Thank you for taking the time to read this advice and I look forward to working in partnership with you.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Lilley
Principal