

September 2024

Dear Parent's, Carer's and Learner's

We hope you have had a lovely summer and we welcome your child/children back to enjoy the new school term.

As the term starts you will notice new attendance banners by your child's school and around the Vale reminding everyone of the importance of attending school and the key message of '**Miss School, Miss Out**'. Success in school begins with showing up. Every class missed is a lesson lost and a missed opportunity to flourish in the additional social activities that school can provide.

Last year The Welsh Government announced that any child with less than 90% attendance is considered to be persistently absent. 90% attendance is 127 hrs of lost learning throughout the academic year. We want all school age children in the Vale of Glamorgan to enjoy the same experiences in education and we need them to be in school for this to happen.

As a Local Authority we recommend to schools that no holidays should be authorised within term time. In total there are 175 non-school days a year. This gives families the opportunity to spend time together, visit family, go on holidays and days out and attend routine appointments. When an appointment can not be made outside of school hours then your child's school will request evidence of the appointment.

We recognise that from time to time parents and learners experience challenges that may make it difficult for them to attend school. We would always advise that communication with school is vital, schools have a variety of support they can offer and the sooner they can understand the situation, the quicker the support can be put in place.

The Inclusion Team work to support learners to access their education and offer advice and guidance to parents and schools. We are committed to ensuring that children's needs are identified and that all children and young people in the Vale are fully included in their school. If you want any more information or wish to contact us please ask your school for further details or have a look at our webpage

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/schools/Inclusion-Service.aspx>

We wish you and your family an exciting autumn term.

Regards

Amanda Geddes
Inclusion Manager (Acting)

