



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the school year, I would like to share some reminders with you.

Our School strives for 100% attendance for all pupils, however we appreciate that children can be ill or have rare unavoidable absences for other reasons. Therefore, our overall school target is at least 95% attendance. We will report to you 3 times per year on how your son/daughter is performing in school, including what their attendance and punctuality rate is and how this relates to their attainment.

There is a new government [National Framework](#) for penalty notices for holidays in term time and condoned absences- please read this carefully. For information, as all fines will be received by the local authority, it will be the local authority who will pursue the payment.

Alongside attendance, punctuality is also extremely important in school and directly impacts on the progress of students. If students are not at school or miss parts of lessons, they cannot successfully access the curriculum. Establishing good time-keeping habits early is good preparation for adult life when we are increasingly responsible for our own timekeeping. All students are expected to be in school by 8:30 am in time for registration at 8:35am, when the register is taken promptly. Any student who arrives after 8.40am is marked late and a same day 15-minute detention set. It is essential you ensure your child arrives for school every day on time.

I would like to remind you of the importance of keeping your child safe online, particularly over the summer holiday when they will spend more time online. The [NSPCC online safety](#) website is an excellent resource for parents to access. There is discussion that unrestricted use of mobile phones and social media is linked to the rise in teen mental health problems. Therefore, as well as monitoring use, it is also important to limit the amount of time spent online.

There are always people to help and support you with any worries or concerns you may have during the school holidays. Follow this [LINK](#) for support if you are worried about a child or young person in Bexley. For support from Childline call 0800 1111. For free mental health support for everyone you can text SHOUT on 85258.

I am sure many of you have exciting plans for your families over the summer holidays. There is often pressure to plan ahead and it is not cheap to keep young teens entertained. Here is some inspiration for some ideas:

[Bexley's Activities and Food Programme](#)
[British Summer Holiday Ideas- BBC Countryfile](#)
[Free Activities to do in London- Evening Standard](#)
[Visit Kent- Ideas for Summer](#)

Have a safe and restful summer,

Mrs Bonner
Senior DHT
Designated Safeguarding Lead.

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