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THE FEDERATION OF LOWER HALSTOW  
AND NEWINGTON CE PRIMARY  
SCHOOLS

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Dear Parent/Carers

We hope you have had a good, relaxed and enjoyable holiday.

As you are aware the Government sets performance and attendance targets for all schools, which they are expected to reach. These targets are monitored by Ofsted when they inspect schools and the Governing Body.

Through our newsletters you will realise that we are very keen to raise the overall school's attendance to at least 96% and we no longer authorize holidays during term time. We are aware that children will miss school due to illness or to attend medical appointments and ask for support from parent/carers to reduce these as much as possible and to keep the school informed of reasons for absence.

We are pleased to say that most of our parent/carers ensure that their children attend school regularly and punctually, with some children achieving 100% attendance. We wish to thank those parent/carers who ensure their children have had very little time off. We reward those children with full attendance, through stickers and a special pen at the end of the year and weekly class certificates. We are looking to introduce further rewards this year.

It is a small number of children who have poor attendance, which brings the overall attendance percentage down, and at Newington the 2015 – 16 attendance was 94.8%. We hold attendance meetings with parent/carers and involve our School Liaison Officer, who will also visit families to ensure that attendance improves. We also issue Penalty Notices for unauthorized absence, where appropriate.

When children are absent they miss vital lessons and their learning is affected as the amount of work in the curriculum does not allow teachers to repeat lessons. We all want the best outcomes for our children, however low attendance has a great impact on whether these are achievable.

Currently both schools within the Federation are judged “Good” by Ofsted, however attendance lower than 96% can trigger an Ofsted inspection and a school can be now be judged as “Requires Improvement” purely on the attendance percentage being lower than 95%.

We ask that parent/carers support the school by ensuring that their children attend school regularly and arrive on time and this will support the school in maintaining a “Good” judgement at the next Ofsted inspection. Each week, class attendance will be available for viewing on the new website.

Yours sincerely

Peter Marshall (Chair of Governors) on Behalf of the Governing Body of the Lower Halstow and Newington CE Primary Schools

