ATTENDANCE NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM 2 2026

Winter Illnesses and School Attendance

As we move through the winter months, coughs, colds and seasonal illnesses become more common. We understand that deciding whether your child is well enough to attend school can sometimes be difficult, but regular attendance is essential for children's learning, wellbeing and friendships.

When should my child come to school?

- Children with mild coughs, colds, runny noses or sore throats can usually attend school if they are otherwise well enough to take part in the day.
- If your child has a high temperature, is vomiting, has diarrhoea, they should remain at home.
- If you are unsure, please contact the school office for advice.

Caring for children during the school day

Our staff are experienced in supporting children who may feel a little under the weather during the school day. We can encourage rest, provide reassurance, ensure children drink plenty of water and monitor them closely. If a child becomes too unwell to remain in school, we will always contact parents or carers.

Medication in school

Where parental consent has been provided, school may be able to administer paracetamol in line with our medicines policy. This can often help children who are feeling slightly unwell to remain comfortable and continue learning throughout the day.

Work sent home during illness

We often receive requests for work when children are absent due to illness. In most cases, if a child is not well enough to attend school, they are unlikely to be well enough to complete schoolwork at home. For this reason, we do not routinely provide work during short-term illness. Our priority is for children to rest, recover and return to school ready to learn. Staff will support children to catch up on any key learning once they are back in school.

Thank you for your support in helping us ensure children attend school whenever they are well enough to do so.
Working together helps maximise learning opportunities and supports every child to thrive.

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Supporting Children Who Find Coming to School Difficult

Most children will occasionally say they do not want to come to school. This can happen for many reasons, including worries about friendships, changes in routine, feeling overwhelmed, lack of sleep, low confidence or concerns about learning. Sometimes these feelings can show themselves through complaints of headaches, stomach aches, tiredness or feeling unwell, particularly on school mornings.

What parents might notice

- Increased anxiety before school.
- Difficulty sleeping or changes in sleep patterns.
- Frequent worries about school-related events.
- Complaints of feeling unwell, which improve later in the day.
- Becoming upset, withdrawn or emotional when discussing school.
- Increased need for reassurance.

How school can help

We want every child to feel safe, supported and ready to learn. If your child is finding school difficult, please let us know as early as possible. We can work together to understand what may be causing the difficulty and identify strategies that can help, such as:

- Gradual and supportive morning check-ins.
- Additional emotional support from trusted adults.
- Opportunities to talk through worries.
- Support with friendships and social situations.
- Adjustments to routines where appropriate.

How parents can help

- Keep morning routines calm and predictable.
- Maintain regular bedtimes and wake-up times.
- Listen to your child's concerns and acknowledge their feelings.
- Reassure them that worries can be managed and that adults will help.
- Encourage attendance whenever possible, even when a child is feeling worried.

Working together If your child is struggling with attending school, you are not alone and neither are they. Please contact your child's teacher or the school office. The sooner we know there is a difficulty, the sooner we can put support in place and work together to help your child feel happy, secure and successful in school.

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REMINDER ABOUT RECORDING OF ABSENCES

Parents can explain a child's absence, but only the school, through the headteacher, can decide whether to authorise it.
This is supported by:

- Working Together to Improve School Attendance (DfE, 2024)
- GOV.UK attendance guidance
- Education Act 1996 (duty to attend regularly)
- Non-statutory authorised absence guidance (2014)

SUPPORT FROM SCHOOL

We're committed to supporting not just our pupils, but our families too. One way we do this is by offering free access to FACE parent talks—a series of expert-led sessions covering a wide range of topics that matter to you. These include areas such as anxiety, emotional based school avoidance and many more themes designed to empower and inform.

Whether you're looking for practical strategies or simply a space to reflect, FACE talks are a valuable resource we're proud to offer.
We'll continue to share upcoming sessions and signposting information throughout the term.

#miss school #miss out
Planned activities for Autumn 2

Rock Kidz
PGL Residential
Historical Workshops
Anti Bullying Workshops
Nativities
Christmas Parties
Christmas Discos
Christmas Jumper Day
Children in Need
Winter Wonderland
Christmas Family Dining

CONTACT INFO

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attendance@robyparkprimary.co.uk

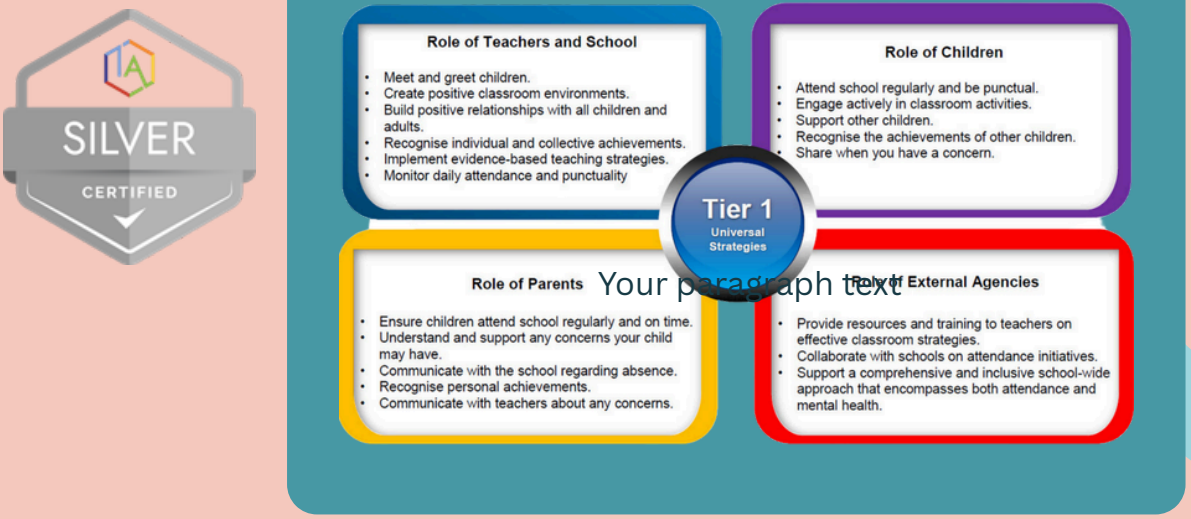
Absences in Autumn 1
Days of learning lost to:

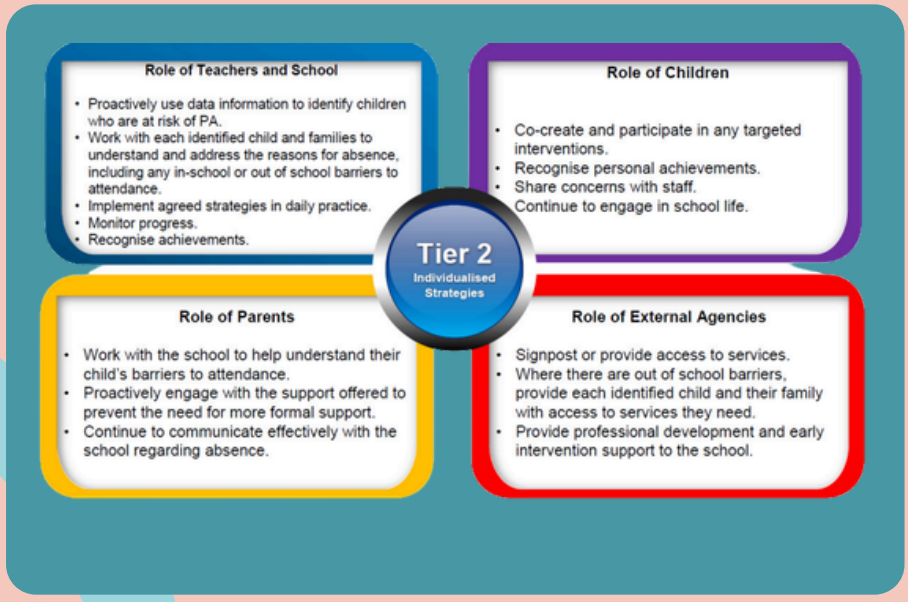
- Holidays: 158.5 ↑
- Illness: 108.5 ↓
- Other unauthorised: 132 ↑
- Medical appointments: 32 ↑
- Lates: 156 ↑
- Lates after registration has closed (classed as an absence): 14 ↓

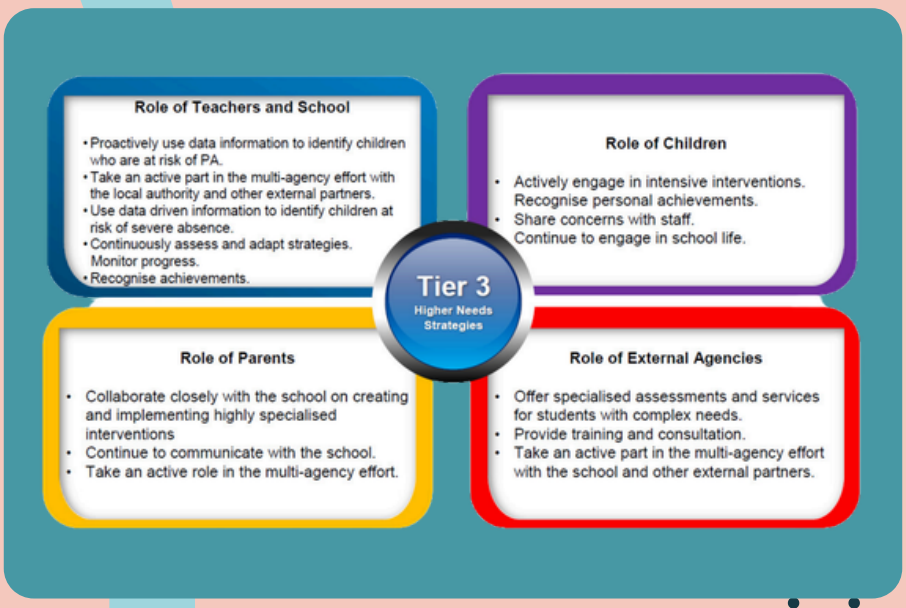
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MULTI-TIERED SUPPORT

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