



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk

Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

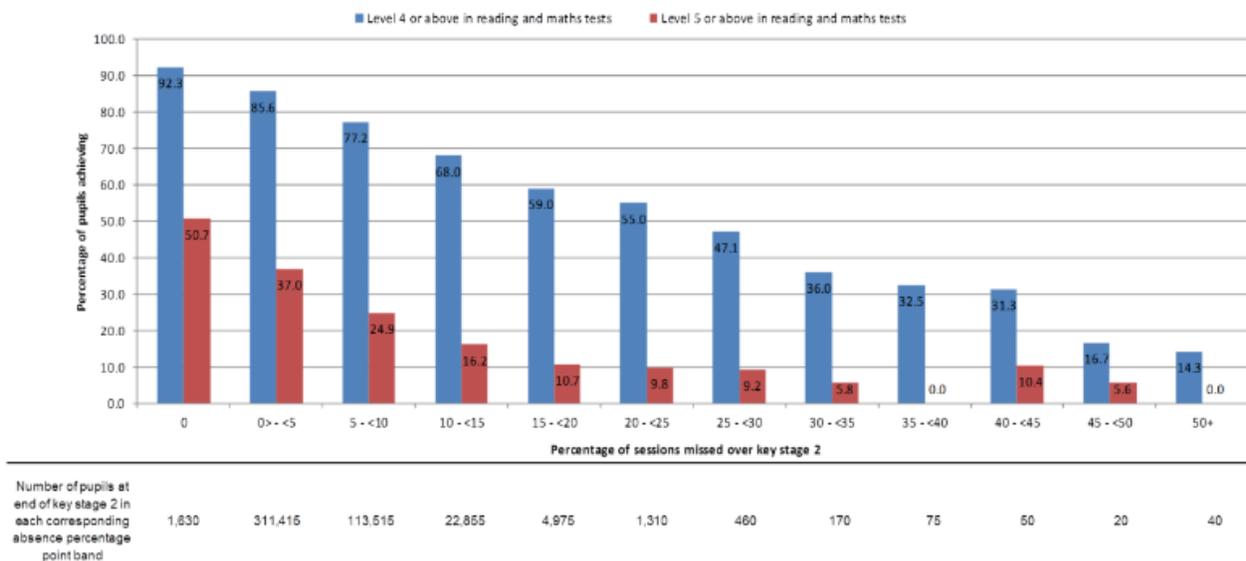
Governors' Bulletin: March 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I last wrote to you before Christmas, which feels like only yesterday, but amazingly a whole term has flown by. I know we can't yet say that Covid is over, but we are at least getting to celebrate an Easter service in Christ Church, something which hasn't been possible for two years!

Since I started as Chair over five years ago, the bulletins have ranged from providing you with information regarding data and outcomes, to explaining the minutiae of our Covid provisions. There is no set formula to them, but I don't send one out unless I have something to say. I think you have more than enough school-based communications to read without my adding to them unnecessarily.

Today I wanted to bring your attention to an issue which has always been a concern, but has got worse during Covid. Punctuality and attendance. As I'm sure Mrs Hodgson has told you, a child's absence from class affects not just the child, but also the teachers, the TAs and the other children whose routines all have to be adjusted to accommodate the necessary catching up. This is particularly important when we're all still feeling the impact of two years of Covid.



As you can see from this graph, the higher the percentage of sessions missed, the lower the likely level of attainment at the end of KS2. Pupils with no absence are 1.6 times more likely to achieve level 4 or above, and 4.7 times more likely to





St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk

Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

achieve level 5 or above, than pupils who missed 15-20% of all sessions. Those statistics and the graph are taken from Government research which you can see here.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/412638/The_link_between_absence_and_attainment_at_KS2_and_KS4.pdf) It is worth pointing out that the Government is so concerned

about the impact of missing education on primary school children, that unauthorised absences could result in fines of £60 per parent or a summons to court.

We know we can get our standards back to where they need to be, but we can only do it with your help. Mrs Read and Mrs Hodgson have designed a catch-up curriculum that will get our children back to where they need to be, but they can't do it if your children aren't in class. The Department for Education has put a particular emphasis on attendance and punctuality, to the extent that it is now impossible to achieve an Outstanding Ofsted grade if your school falls short in either of those areas. As I have said in the past, we are proud of our Outstanding status but we are more proud of our children, the outcomes they achieve and the young adults they become. Ofsted is a measure of many things, not all of them within our control.

At a recent meeting of the full Governing Board Mrs Hodgson brought us up to date with the current state of every year group. Mrs Hodgson, Mrs Read and the staff are constantly looking at different teaching strategies to ensure the best possible learning provision across the school, and it is always exciting and inspiring to hear her outline them. She was rightly proud of most outcomes, and demonstrably optimistic about the rest. However, we can only continue to achieve good outcomes if your children are present in class receiving those lessons. There are 190 school days in every year. Let's try and ensure as many of them as possible are spent in school!

Thank you and I hope you all have a restful Easter break, you've certainly earned it!

Best wishes,

Harry Oulton

Chair of Governors

[\[mailto:houlton@stjhv.islington.sch.uk\]](mailto:houlton@stjhv.islington.sch.uk)

