

**STOKESLEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

5 Springfield

Stokesley

North Yorkshire

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5th November 2015

Dear Parents / Carers

As was highlighted in our recent OFSTED report we have made huge improvements in rates of attainment and progress across the school.

It was also highlighted that “Despite tireless efforts by the leadership team” the attendance rates remain “stubbornly low”.

It is this issue which continues to undermine further progress and will remain a barrier to pupils and the school in our attempts to improve even further.

We have the worst rate of overall attendance in North Yorkshire. This is affected by a number of specific factors no one more significant than the other:

* A high % of pupils from Gypsy Roma culture
* A high % of term-time holidays (the highest in the Northern region)
* A high % of persistently absent pupils (<85%)

From January 2016 we have appointed a Community Support Advisor (CSA), Mrs Yvonne Pickersgill. The CSA’s responsibilities will be to reduce the % of term-time holidays, reduce the % of persistently absent pupils and to raise the % of attendance of our Gypsy Roma Traveller cohort.

I have analysed the progress data from last academic year. The outcome of which proves explicitly the importance of school attendance with its obvious correlation between attendance and progress.

Essentially the higher the pupil’s attendance the greater progress they make.

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| Attendance % | % of pupils | Average points progress | |
| < 85% | 13% | + 2.9 | Below National Expectation |
| 85 – 89.9% | 10% | + 2.5 | Below National Expectation |
| 90 – 94.9% | 20% | + 4.2 | Above National Expectation |
| > 95% | 57% | + 4.4 | Above National Expectations |

I hope that our continued effort and commitment to raising attendance is understood by all parents and that we can work together to maximise the progress of every child in the school.

Yours sincerely

A S McFarlane

Headteacher