

18<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already racing towards the end of the autumn term. All of the staff in school have been heartened by how “normal” and back to business this academic year has felt, now that we have regained all of our freedoms following the Covid-19 pandemic.

We are particularly pleased with how strongly our school attendance has bounced back. Last academic year, Old Moat Primary’s attendance was significantly above both local and national averages, and we have started this academic year in the same strong vein. This does not mean however, that we can rest on our laurels. There is very robust evidence that shows the correlation between strong attendance and high attainment in school. Did you know for example that, “at KS2, pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% among those meeting the expected standard” (DfE, 2022)? Put very simply, every day, every lesson, every moment of your child’s education is important. When they don’t attend school, children develop gaps in knowledge, and this can affect their confidence. When they regularly miss school, children begin to feel like they don’t belong, and it can be easy for poor attendance habits to become ingrained and for friendships with their classmates to be adversely affected.

I understand that at times our approach to attendance may seem inflexible, but I would like to reassure you that we are motivated only by the long-term wellbeing of, and outcomes for, your children. You may have noticed a new poster around school which highlights the balance of in-school days compared to out of school days. A copy of the poster can be found on the reverse of this letter for your reference.

Thank you in advance for making appointments (wherever possible) out of school time and for taking holidays during school closures. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated and is of significant benefit to the children of our school.

Yours sincerely



Oliver Kerr

Headteacher

**Executive Headteacher:** Mrs. J. Ashcroft



# Old Moat Primary School



**190 days in school**

It is very important that your child attends school regularly and aims for excellent attendance.

**175 days not in school**

That's 175 days per year to organise appointments, go on holiday etc.