

21 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

School attendance became mandatory again from 8th March, meaning it is parents' legal duty to send their child (if they are of compulsory school age) to school regularly.

A small number of pupils may still be unable to attend in line with Public Health advice because they:

- have symptoms or have had a positive test result
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and so are a household contact
- are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19
- are one of the very small number of pupils under paediatric or other specialist care and have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend.

Shielding advice has been paused nationally from 31 March - all critically extremely vulnerable (CEV) pupils should attend school unless they are in one of the above categories. Pupils who live with someone who is CEV should also continue to attend school as normal. Attending school is vital for pupils' educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. It is important that pupils attend school every day, in order to get the greatest benefit from their education.

From the 17th May 2021, the Government lifted legal restrictions on foreign travel. As usual, parents should plan and book holidays around school breaks and avoid taking children out of school during term time. Permission for leave of absence/holiday during term time can only be authorised by the Headteacher and parents can be issued a Penalty Notice Fine for taking children on leave of absence/holiday during term-time without the Headteacher's permission.

A request for leave of absence during term time should be made in writing to the school and will be considered by the Headteacher. To be able to grant leave, the Headteacher must receive the request for leave of absence/holiday during term time in advance and be satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the request.

It is also important to note, schools are not required to provide remote learning for students who are quarantining following travel abroad. Please consider this information when arranging holidays over the half term and during the summer break. You can find more details about the traffic light system and the requirements applicable to each

category here: [Red, amber and green list rules for entering England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Finally, if you have concerns regarding your child's attendance at school, it is important that you discuss this with staff from their school. The school will discuss any concerns and barriers to attendance, and then agree a plan with you, to support improved attendance. Please visit the [Coventry City Council website](#) for further information regarding school attendance.



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