



Tuesday 2nd June 2026

Attendance Newsletter Summer Term 2

Dear parents and carers,

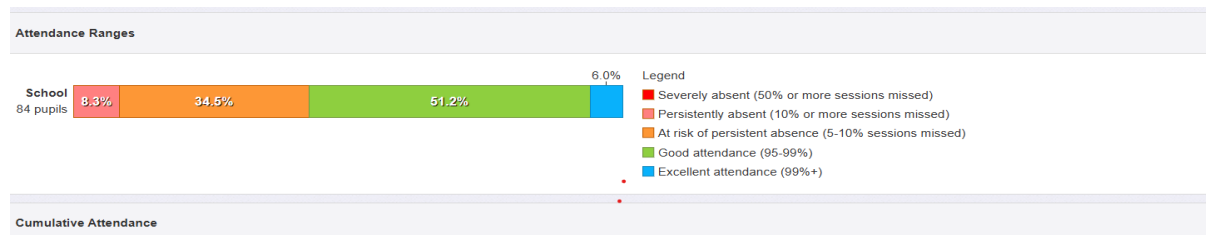
As we enter the final term, I would like to extend a huge thank you to our entire school community for your continued support in improving whole-school attendance this year.

Throughout the year, our attendance figures have been broadly in line with the national average. This marks a significant improvement compared to last year and is something we are very proud of. However, as the graph indicates, there are still too many children attending below 95% — currently 29 pupils, which represents over a quarter of our school population.

We are also noticing a pattern of absence immediately before or after weekends. This is something we are now monitoring more closely, as even occasional missed days can have a significant impact on learning and progress over time.

Attendance has also been highlighted by Ofsted as an area for continued focus. They stated: *'Leaders should sustain the upward trend in pupils' attendance by embedding the school's systems and continuing to work with families where pupils' absence remains a concern.'*

With this in mind, we will continue to prioritise maintaining and improving attendance throughout this term and into the new academic year. We appreciate your ongoing partnership in ensuring that children attend school regularly and benefit fully from their education.



Did You Know?

Students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve better grades and build stronger friendships. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/link-between-attendance-and-attainment>

Holiday requests

Taking your child out of school without permission may result in a Penalty Notice being issued. **From our experiences this year, all referrals have resulting in a fine.**

SENNEN SCHOOL
Sennen, Penzance, Cornwall TR19 7AW
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What this means:

- A Penalty Notice may be issued if your child has unauthorised absences, including holidays.
- The fine is £80 per child, per parent if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid within 28 days.
- Failure to pay may result in prosecution.
- There is no right of appeal—if you believe a notice was issued in error, you must contact the school directly.

We understand that holidays are important for family time, but we are legally required to prioritise your child's education and wellbeing. Every school day counts.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days. If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days.

Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs. Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

If you have any questions or need to discuss exceptional circumstances, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support. We have attached a copy of your child's current attendance for reference. Please check and let the office know if there are any discrepancies.