

Attendance Matters

Autumn 1 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this term's *Attendance Matters* newsletter. We want to take this opportunity to remind and inform you about our attendance expectations and practices, and how we can work together to ensure your child gets the full benefit of every day in school.

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in your child's success at school. When learners miss school, even by small amounts, it has a compounding effect: gaps in learning, missed introductions or explanations, and fewer opportunities to take part in class activities or catch-up time.

At Amotherby, we aim for all pupils to reach **at least 97 % attendance**, with a strong aspiration toward 100 %. Every missed day matters, and every minute matters.

What You Can Do as Parents & Carers

- **Prioritise school attendance** except in genuine medical emergencies.
- Contact the school by **8:30 am on the first day** of absence, giving reason and expected duration.
 - Provide documentation (e.g. GP notes) for medical appointments.
 - Schedule non-urgent appointments outside school hours, where possible.
- Establish routines (bedtime, morning and evening) so your child is ready and on time.
- Discuss with us any barriers early — transport, health, emotional wellbeing — so we can help before matters worsen.

Who can I talk to if I need support?



Mrs L Wade – Heateacher



Miss K Cooper – Assistant HT & SENCo

Term Time Absence - Authorising Absence

Children should only miss school in unavoidable circumstances: for example, illness (with appropriate communication) or exceptional circumstances agreed in advance by the Headteacher

Typical absence reasons such as “holiday” or “visiting relatives” are not considered exceptional and will **not** be authorised. This is in line with national regulations (since 2013) that permit leave only in truly exceptional circumstances.

In North Yorkshire, schools are required to refer unauthorised absence (especially 5 days or more) to the Local Authority (NYCC) for possible Fixed Penalty Notices or further legal intervention.



Why holidays during term time are discouraged

- Missing school interrupts continuity of learning and misses key teaching, assessments, and classroom discussion.
- It can place your child behind their peers, making it harder to catch up.
- It sends a message that learning is optional rather than a priority.
- Local Authorities may issue fines to parents for unauthorised leave—e.g. £60 (rising to £120) in many cases.
- In North Yorkshire, unauthorised absence is a matter of legal interest and may lead to parental prosecution or other intervention.

We appreciate that families sometimes feel constrained by school holiday dates or cost, but we must apply policy fairly and consistently for all.

Whole School Attendance 97.2% Whole School Target 97%

We are delighted to see such a strong start to attendance this year. Many of our pupils already have excellent attendance records, and we want to say a huge thank you to all our families for making this possible. Your efforts in getting children to school every day and on time make a real difference to their learning and wellbeing. It would be wonderful to see this commitment continue right through the year so that every child can enjoy the full benefit of everything school has to offer. Together, we can keep up this fantastic momentum and give our children the very best chance to thrive.



EYFS	96.2%
Year 1	97.3%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	97.8%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	97.2%
Year 6	98%

