



North Crescent Primary School

North Crescent, Wickford, Essex, SS12 9AP

Tel: 01268 765905

admin@northcrescent.org

www.northcrescent.org

Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Walker

01/10/24

Dear parents/carers,

We welcome you to the new academic year. Good attendance, punctuality and student wellbeing remain top priorities for us at North Crescent Primary School. We share parents' and carers' wishes by wanting the best for all our students, and we are looking forward to working in partnership with you to achieve this.

We work hard to ensure our students have the best opportunities for success in the future, to feel safe and supported in school, and to develop a sense of belonging both with their peers and as a part of our wider school community.

To support this, regular attendance at school will be key. For reference, our school day starts at 8.35am and finishes at 3.15pm. Please be aware that due to new Department for Education requirements, any student arriving more than 30 minutes after the start of the school day must be recorded with an unauthorised absence (U code).

If an occasion arises when it is unavoidable for your child to miss school, we ask that you contact the school before 9am by telephone on 01268 765905 or email at pupilabsence@northcrescent.org on every day of absence. Information regarding the school day, our attendance procedures and how we monitor and follow up on absences can be found in our attendance policy at: <https://www.northcrescent.org/policies/>.

We expect all our students to attend school as regularly as possible, and to aim for 100% attendance. However, we do recognise that children may sometimes experience illness or exceptional circumstances that prevent regular attendance.

Regarding illness, the NHS advises us that it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with common or minor illnesses. For example, common colds, minor coughs, sore throats or headaches alone do not mean children are too unwell to attend school. To help parents decide whether certain illnesses or symptoms require time off school, the NHS has produced the following guidance: NHS - Is My Child Too Ill for School?



In addition to mild illnesses, we are aware that more of our students have been absent from school due to feelings of anxiety in recent years. The specialist advice regarding anxious thoughts and feelings, which is also accessible via the above NHS link, is that worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people.

It is recognised that a prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it. With the support we have available for our students, being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. If your child is struggling with anxious thoughts and feelings, please contact us as early as possible (if you haven't done so already) so that an effective support plan can be arranged.

If any difficult circumstances arise that you feel we can help with, please accept our assurances that we will work with you to ensure that opportunities are always provided to discuss and resolve any problems that may be preventing our students from attending school.

We look forward to working together to ensure the best possible year for all our students. If at any point you feel that you or your child needs support, guidance or advice, please feel welcomed and encouraged to contact us at an early stage so we can work together to resolve any problems that may arise.

Kind regards,

Miss G Elson

Assistant Headteacher

Senior Attendance Champion