



Ocean Academy Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Self-Worth | Engagement | Purpose

'Bringing Learning to life: No limits. No barriers.'

Martin West - Acting Principal
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Dear Parent/Carer

4 September 2025

It has been wonderful to welcome your child back to Ocean Academy today and to welcome our new Year 3 children for the first time. We look forward to working with you to ensure that they have the opportunity to learn and thrive at our school during the coming year.

We wanted to let you know that attendance will continue to be a top priority for us. When children miss school days, they miss out on the opportunity to learn from their teachers and take part in our amazing enrichment programme of trips and clubs. The more days children miss, the harder it is for them to keep up with those who attend school regularly. While some absences are unavoidable for health reasons (please follow this link if you are unsure if your child is too ill to attend school <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>) or other important family matters, we also know that even when children have missed school for valid reasons, too many absences can cause them to fall behind and that may lead to more absences.

90% attendance may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, however the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child misses half a day of school every week, or 3 days a half term, which is the equivalent of 19 school days (almost one whole month), during the year. Missing this relatively small amount of school can harm your child's progress and impact their later life. Missing 10% of school is called persistent absence. These absences may seem small as they happen, but research has shown us that your child is less likely to succeed if they are persistently absent compared to their peers who attend more regularly, and this has a knock-on effect on their potential earnings once they leave school.

Going to school regularly matters for your child's success and achievement!

Let's work together to make sure that your child does not fall behind in school this year. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and also arrives on time so that they benefit as much as possible from what is taught in the classroom. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Establish a morning routine.
- Ensure your child goes to school every day unless they are really ill (e.g child has a fever, is vomiting or has diarrhoea, as opposed to a minor stomach ache or runny nose or headache).
- Avoid taking holidays or arranging doctor's or dentist's appointments during term time



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Registered office: World Business Centre 3, Newall Road, Hounslow, TW6 2TA



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- Talk to teachers for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.
- Have a back up plan for getting to school if something comes up or if a sibling is too ill to attend school. Call on a family member, neighbour, or another parent to take your other child/children to school.
- Talking positively to your child about school and taking an interest in their school day
- Attending parents' evenings and school events.
- Praising and rewarding your child's efforts and achievements at school.

Please let us know how we can work with you and your family to ensure your children arrive at school on time every day. Like you, we want your child to be successful! If you have any questions or need more information please contact the school office in the first instance.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Richardson, Mr West, Miss Nicholls and Mrs Burry

Ocean Academy's Attendance Team



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