

# Headteacher's Newsletter 2025-26 Issue 19 26/04/26



## Attendance Matters

Good attendance is essential for your child's learning and wellbeing. Research shows that pupils with high attendance make better progress, achieve higher outcomes, and develop stronger social and emotional skills.

Every school day builds on the last. Even small amounts of absence quickly add up and can lead to gaps in learning and reduced confidence. For example, 90% attendance means around four weeks of school missed in a year.

## Term-time holidays

We strongly discourage holidays during term time. Learning is carefully sequenced, and missing school can have a lasting impact. Government guidance also states that term-time leave should only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

## Affordable holiday tips

To help keep family breaks affordable:

- Book early for school holiday periods
- Consider UK holidays or short breaks
- Use price alerts and compare travel dates
- Look at mid-week travel for better value

## Working together

We appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends every day, arrives on time, and is ready to learn. If you are experiencing difficulties with attendance, please contact us so we can help. Every day counts.

## Support for families

SEND advice from Willow Grove:  
<https://padlet.com/lkennedy124/send-support-for-parents-at-willow-grove-primary-school-gp0hcrqu6gd25ce5>

Bedford Contacts for support:  
<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/help.page>

## Training and support for parents:

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/advice.page?id=4sKAchVw7Tw>

## Feedback from parents

We are delighted that the feedback regarding our recent Parents' Evening was overwhelmingly positive and parents at Willow Grove feel that the teachers support them in understanding how well their children are doing. Your feedback is important to us - thank you for your views.



Look at the wonderful observational drawings in Year 1. The children worked really hard to look closely at real feathers and pictures of birds, demonstrating excellent progress in their drawing skills!

