

Ryefield Bulletin

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Click the image below to watch video summary



The national discussion and survey around mobile phones in schools

Over the past year, there has been a growing national discussion about mobile phones in schools. Increasingly, secondary schools are reviewing – and in many cases tightening – their policies around pupil phone use during the school day. For many leaders and parents alike, this isn't about being anti-technology; it is about creating the right conditions for learning, safety and wellbeing.

The idea at the heart of the debate is a simple one: a daily “digital detox”. When phones are out of sight, students are more present. Schools that have introduced phone-free policies often report calmer corridors, fewer low-level disruptions in lessons and more positive social interactions at break and lunchtime. Without the pull of notifications, group chats and social media, pupils are freer to focus on their learning and to talk – properly talk – to one another.

There are wellbeing benefits too. Many young people describe feeling constant pressure to respond instantly online. A structured break from that expectation, even for a few hours a day, can reduce anxiety and improve concentration. Teachers frequently note that when phones are removed from the equation, attention spans increase and classroom discussion deepens.

At primary level, mobile phones are not permitted in school. However, we recognise that some families choose to provide a phone when children begin making their own way to Ryefield, particularly in Year 5 & 6, as some parents begin to prepare for secondary school. This is often done for reassurance and safety. It is worth noting, though, that if a child's secondary school operates a strict no-phone policy during the school day, this may make the issue largely redundant in the longer term.

Families seeking reassurance without introducing a smartphone into daily school life may wish to consider alternative approaches. For example, simple call-and-text-only “brick” phones, GPS-enabled key fobs, smart watches with restricted functions, or location trackers such as Apple AirTags can provide peace of mind without the distractions of social media and internet access.

As more secondary schools move towards phone-free models, the wider message is clear: in a world of constant connectivity, protected time for learning, friendship and face-to-face interaction remains vital for our children's development.

Click [here](#) to share your views on whether mobile phones should be used by primary school children.

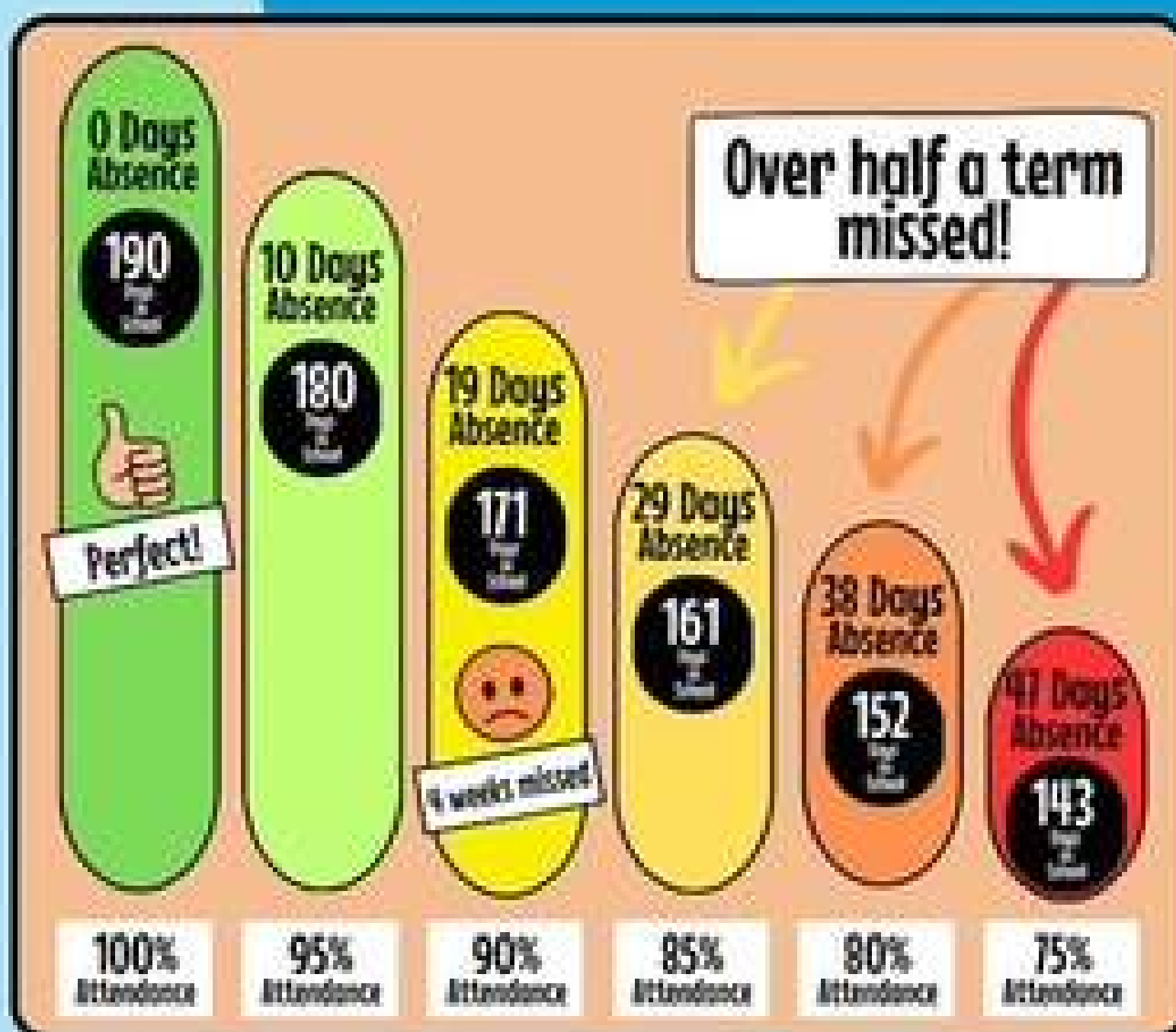
School Attendance

Every day counts...



Good attendance helps with...

<p>Academic Achievement Regular attendance helps children stay on track with the curriculum and achieve stronger academic results.</p>	<p>Social Skills Being in school every day helps children make friends, develop important social skills and feel part of the school community.</p>	<p>Routine & Responsibility Attending school regularly teaches the importance of commitment, routine and responsibility, helping children build valuable life skills.</p>	<p>Focus & Engagement Children who attend school regularly are more likely to stay engaged in their learning and develop a positive attitude towards education.</p>	<p>Building Confidence Regular attendance can boost a child's self-esteem and confidence, as they see their progress and achievements over time.</p>	<p>Enhanced Learning Opportunities School offers more than academic learning - it provides clubs, activities and enrichment opportunities that help children discover new interests and talents.</p>
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Did you know there are...

- 365 Days in a Year
- 190 School Days
- 175 Non School Days

Having 90% over 5 school years, is half a school year's work missed!

Tips for Supporting Good Attendance...

<p>Set a regular routine A consistent bedtime and morning routine helps children feel ready for school and reduces last-minute stress.</p>	<p>Aim for every day Try to make school attendance the default. Only keep your child off if they are genuinely unwell.</p>	<p>Plan appointments carefully Where possible, book medical or dental appointments outside school hours so your child doesn't miss lessons.</p>	<p>Talk positively about school Ask about your child's day and celebrate the little things they enjoy. Your positivity helps them look forward to school.</p>	<p>Stay in touch When a child is struggling, early communication with the school helps everyone find solutions and makes things easier for the child.</p>	<p>Prepare the night before Pack bags, lay out uniforms and check homework in the evening to make mornings smoother and less stressful.</p>
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☀️ Marvellous Mondays

We are placing a renewed focus on Monday attendance – and for good reason.

Mondays matter. Teachers often begin new topics, introduce key concepts and set the direction for the week ahead. When a child misses a Monday, they are not just missing a day of school; they are often missing the foundation that the rest of the week's learning is built upon. Catching up can feel harder, confidence can dip, and small gaps can quickly grow. We know that occasional absence is sometimes unavoidable. However, patterns of regular Monday absence can have a noticeable impact over time.

A strong start to the week helps children feel settled, confident and ready to learn. To support this, we are introducing a simple whole-school challenge. If our overall weekly attendance percentage is equal to or higher than the previous week, the entire school will earn an extra five minutes of playtime the following week. This is a collective effort. Every child's attendance contributes to the whole. **Quite simply, you have to be in it to win it.** Let's work together to build positive habits, start our weeks strongly and ensure that no one misses out on those important first steps in learning.

Spring term dates

Week beginning 9th February: Y4 swimming and VLT Languages week

Friday 13th February: FoR Friendship Disco

Half term: 16th February to the 20th

February

Monday 23rd February: School re-opens

Wednesday 4th March: VLT Netball tournament

Thursday 5th March: World Book Day

Friday 6th March: Y6 visit WW2 Bunker

Friday 13th March: Rocksteady to the school

Friday 20th March: Rocksteady to parents (AM and PM performances)

Wednesday 18th March: VLT Science Challenge

Tuesday 24th March: Flower Festival to school, Y5 to Oak Wood

Wednesday 25th March: Flower Festival to parents

Thursday 26th March: Y5 visit the Tower of London

Friday 27th March: Spring term ends.

Easter holiday: 30th March - 9th April

Showstopping cakes

Well done to all the children who entered VLT's bake off, which was themed around representing a country. We had delicious entries showcasing Iran, the UK, Italy, Germany, China, Afghanistan and many more. The top 5 cakes were:

- Penny (China)
- Lissia (Mexico)
- Saja (Egypt)
- Misha (Kenya)
- Jack (Wales)

The overall winner (Mexico) was taken through to the grand final and was judged against other finalists from Field End Junior School, Hermitage, Ruislip High School, and Vyners School. We were delighted when Lissia's cake was chosen by staff and students as the overall winner, and the school was awarded a trophy, and Lissia received a £30 gift voucher.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Trust's first VLT Bake Off.



Good luck and congratulations

We would all like to wish Mrs Casey all the best as she begins her maternity leave. The school made sure that she knew how much we would miss her in today's assembly.

We would also like to wish Miss L'Olive congratulations on the wonderful news that she is expecting a baby in the summer term.

Finally, we would like to wish Miss Lount well, as she is getting married during half term. We hope that she has a day full of love and celebration.