



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal of Primary
Mrs Bishop - Principal of Secondary

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8th April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

The end of the Spring term is finally upon us. Although we've still found ourselves with staff and pupil absences as we weave our way through the Covid situations in our community, we've had some fantastic moments to celebrate along the way from World Book Day and sports fixtures to Easter bonnets, egg hunts and school trips!

Covid Update

On Tuesday 29th March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the next steps for living with COVID-19 in England. Details can be found [here](#). We have since received updated guidance from the Government about measures for managing COVID-19 in education settings from last Friday, 1st April.

In practical terms at Atlantic, the updated guidance has the following implications:

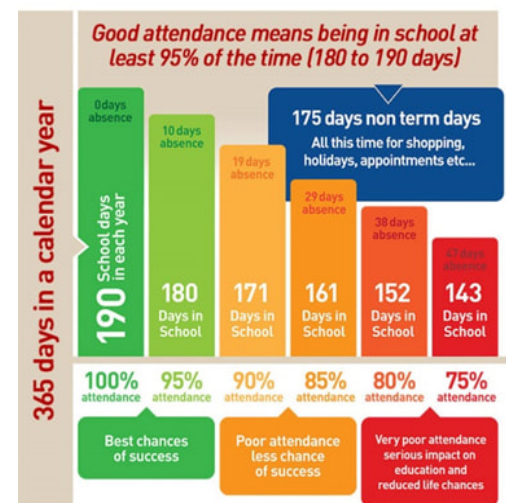
1. Students who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend;
2. Students **under the age of 18** with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **3 days**, which is when they are most infectious. For students who are **18 and over**, the advice will be **5 days**;
3. Regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education setting. Therefore, we will no longer be able to order test kits for distribution to students.

Attendance

Recently we have noticed that there is a significant number of children who have poor attendance that is not covid related:

- There's a clear link between poor attendance and **children who struggle at school**.
- Students with poor attendance miss out on key learning opportunities, school events and exciting activities with their friends causing them to feel left behind.
- An average attendance of **80% or less** across a child's school career adds up to **missing a whole 2 years** from school.

We know how challenging it is for our pupils to return to school when days have been missed so we ask you, as we move into the summer term, to work with us to ensure your child attends school on as many days as they are fit and well for. Every day makes a difference and we miss them when they are not in!



DID YOU KNOW? A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is **94.7%**



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Inset Days

We will be starting the Summer term with a staff training day for INSET on Monday 25th April. In addition to this we are running an additional INSET day on Thursday 23rd June with an additional Bank Holiday Jubilee Day on Friday 24th June.

Summer Term Events

We have been working hard both with Atlantic staff but also with Student Leaders to ensure we have a full program of events in place for the summer term. I've attached a calendar of events to this email for reference and we will, as ever, always aim to ensure dates are adhered to. We can't wait to bring our community back into school for an exhibition of learning, Sports day and our world famous Atlantic Dance Day!

Uniform

With the summer term upon us, jumpers and tights will **no longer be** compulsory from April 26th. However, please could I remind you about our uniform regulations and ask for your continued support in ensuring that all our students keep to the dress code. The students report they are proud to wear their uniform with confidence and we always pride them in how smart and well presented they look.

Have a wonderful Easter and we look forward to welcoming students back for the summer term on **Tuesday 26th April**.

Kind Regards

Miss M Heppell
Principal of Primary