

October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We want to provide some clarification about the weekly attendance notifications that some families may receive, particularly at this early stage of the school year.

Each week, our attendance system automatically identifies pupils whose attendance currently falls within the Persistent Absence (PA) threshold. A pupil is classed as persistently absent when they have missed 10% or more of the school sessions available to them.

It is important to understand that this percentage is calculated using the school days that have taken place so far in the academic year, rather than across the whole year. This means that, particularly in September, one or two days of absence can have a much greater impact on a child's attendance percentage than they would later in the year.

For example, after 10 school days, one full day of absence would mean attendance of 90%. As more school days take place, each individual day has a smaller effect on the overall percentage and, with regular attendance, a child's percentage can quickly begin to improve.

The weekly slip is an automated notification to keep families informed. Receiving one does not mean that we are questioning the reason for an absence or suggesting that a child has an ongoing attendance concern. A child who has been genuinely unwell may still temporarily fall within the PA threshold simply because of the way attendance is calculated at that point in the year.

If you have already informed school that your child was absent due to illness and this has been recorded correctly, you do not need to provide this information again in response to the notification.

We know that children do become unwell and there will inevitably be occasions when they are not fit to attend school. At the same time, regular attendance is incredibly important, and our weekly notifications are designed to ensure that families are aware of their child's current attendance and can work with us where additional support may be helpful.

Thank you, as always, for your support in helping children attend school regularly and make the most of every day at Carr.

Kind regards

Carr Infant School