

“Everything is possible for one who believes”

MARK 9:23

Bradford Forster Academy
A Church of England Academy



DSK/EMY/RMW

January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to you and your families. We hope you had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas break and that your children are refreshed and ready for the new school term.

As we welcome our secondary school students back, we would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. Regular attendance is a vital factor in students' academic progress, personal development, and overall success at school.

We understand that the colder weather can bring additional challenges, including seasonal illnesses and difficult mornings. We appreciate your efforts in ensuring that students attend school regularly whenever they are well enough to do so. Being in school allows students to remain engaged with learning, maintain routine, and access the support they need.

Attendance Expectations

Students should only remain at home if they are infectious or physically unable to attend school. In many cases, students may feel unwell due to factors such as dehydration, tiredness, or minor discomfort. Students are permitted to bring a water bottle into school if needed. If a student feels unwell during the day, the school's first aid team will assess them and contact parents if it is necessary for them to be collected.

Parents may bring medication, including pain relief, into school for their child; however, this must be handed to the school first aid team along with appropriate consent.

At Bradford Forster Academy, we ask parents to provide specific details about symptoms when reporting an absence. This helps us monitor patterns of illness, identify potential outbreaks, and safeguard vulnerable members of our community, including pregnant staff or students with low immunity.

Principal: Mrs Gemma Earles, MA, NPQH

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We are also committed to developing students' resilience and independence as they prepare for adult life. Missing school can result in students falling behind or missing key learning and important information shared in lessons.

Common Reasons for Absence

Below are some common reasons provided for absence and our expectations:

- **Asthma:** Asthma is a long-term condition. If your child is experiencing difficulties, we recommend consulting your GP or asthma nurse to ensure their condition is managed effectively so they can attend school.
- **Feeling sick:** Feeling nauseous alone is not usually a reason to stay off school. This is often linked to dehydration or not eating breakfast. Students are expected to attend unless they are actively unwell.
- **Temperature or fever:** A mild temperature does not automatically mean a student should remain at home. Paracetamol may help reduce a temperature. Please use a thermometer and seek medical advice if you are concerned.
- **Colds:** A common cold is not a reason to stay off school. Students should attend if they are well enough.
- **Covid-19:** Current guidance confirms there is no requirement to test for Covid-19. If a student has symptoms but is physically well enough, they are expected to attend school. A negative test is not required for return.

Please be assured that the school continues to take students' health and wellbeing seriously. If your child is genuinely unwell, please inform the school as soon as possible and provide any relevant documentation upon their return.

As we begin this new year together, we look forward to working closely with you to promote excellent attendance, positive attitudes to learning, and continued success for all our students.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued commitment. We wish you and your family a healthy, happy, and successful New Year.

Yours sincerely

D Schack

Mr D Schack
Vice Principal, Behaviour & Attitudes