



Term 2 Attendance Update

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Improving school attendance is a target of the NSW Department of Education and therefore Blacktown South Public School. Starting this term, Blacktown South Public School will be implementing a number of initiatives to encourage and reward good attendance.

1. **Student Attendance Report:** Please see the enclosed report of your child's attendance for first term.

Regular, consistent attendance at school and being on time each day is so important for the academic growth of students. Often when speaking with parents about school absences, parents are surprised at how quickly sick days or away days from school can add up, especially for busy families. The purpose of this report is to clearly show to families the number of days your child has been away from school, and to encourage families to try to reduce the number of these days.

2. **Daily Notification of Student Absences:** It is Department Policy that parents should be notified of their child's unexplained absences within 24 hours of a child being away. As of Monday 5th May, between 10.30am and 12.00pm the school will be emailing families if their child has an **unexplained absence for the day**.

Please note that if you have **already contacted the school to explain your child's absence** prior to the email being distributed, you should not receive the email. This is only for families who have not already explained their child's absence.

Many schools follow this practice, especially high schools. The purpose of the email will be to inform parents that their child has not attended school, and to provide a **link to our school app or phone number** so parents can easily and quickly explain the absence.

It is a requirement of the NSW Department of Education, that parents must explain/give reason for their child's absences. We hope that providing a reminder and easy link that it will support families in compliance with this requirement.

Explaining Absences: Our preferred method to explain absences are to complete the **form on the school app** or to **call the school office**. Both these methods are most efficient. We discourage handwritten notes as these often get lost or left in school bags.

3. **Attendance Awards:** As of Term 2, the school will be trialling Student Attendance Awards. The **'Attendance Super Star Awards'** will be awarded to students who achieve either 100% attendance over the term or 95% attendance for the term. These awards will be distributed early Term 3.

When coordinating these awards, **only whole day absences will be included**. Part-day absences will not be included.

I thank you for your support of these initiatives. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Andrew Bowmer
Principal