**ATTENDANCE ACTIVISTS MEETING Q&A!**

**Why do we need to come to school?**

* To learn new things, important things!
* Being part of a group helps us to get on well with others and make friends.
* Educational visits help us to learn.
* Taking part in clubs and teams is fun these happen before & after school.
* Being at school every day improves your chances of getting a job or going to college and university when you get older.
* It’s the law.

**What happens if you don’t come to school?**

* Children don’t learn as well and fall behind with their learning.
* Your parents could get fined for not sending you to school.
* You might get bored at home and miss being with your friends.
* You will get absence marks which affects if you get rewards.
* You may miss out on special days, celebrations, educational visits, class events and activities.

**What is good attendance?**

* At Bleak Hill we think 96% or more is what every child should aim for.
* Children should always try to come to school unless they are really ill, if they can take any medication to feel a little better then they should come in and tell their teachers.

**What to do if you can’t come to school:**

* Telephone school.
* Call into the school office and explain.
* Send an email
* Communicate with the class teacher via class messaging systems.

**What should children not do?**

* Take time off for a holiday in term time, if you do you could miss a lot of learning
* Arrive late as then you will not know what the class teacher has already said to your classmates
* Take time off if you are well enough to attend school with the support of medication, staff are there to help.

**If you are absent school should:**

* Send a message to parents
* Telephone parents/carers to check everything is, OK?
* Speak to parents and carers to see if school can offer any support
* Work with families to improve attendance.

**Rewards**

* Termly awards for the class or classes with the highest attendance.
* Certificates each term for children who reach the school’s target