| **When is it ok for my child not to be in school?**  Your child can be off school if:   * They are ill. * They are attending a doctor or hospital appointment. * They are going to a meeting about a Children’s Hearing or court, or if they are going to a Children’s Hearing, care review or court. * If they are involved in an activity and the school agrees in advance. * Someone close to your child has died. * There is a crisis or serious difficulty at home or in your family. * They are going to a religious ceremony or a wedding of someone very close to them. * You are a Gypsy/Traveler family and while you go travelling you keep in touch with your child’s teacher. * Your family is returning to a country of origin for cultural reasons or to care for a relative.   As long as you have informed the school of the reason why your child is off, and the school is satisfied that this is a valid reason, these would be called authorised absences. | SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND ADVICE  **ParentLine Scotland**  At some time all parents find that parenting can be difficult or stressful. ParentLine Scotland is the free, confidential, telephone helpline for anyone caring for a child in Scotland. You can call about any problem, however big or small. Phone: 0808 800 2222 On line at: <http://www.children1st.org.uk/parentline>  **Parentzone**  Parentzone provides information for parents and carers about how you can support your child’s education. On line at: <http://www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk>  **ChildLine**  Children and young people can get confidential help about any question, concern or worry. Phone: 08001111 On line at: <http://www.childline.org.uk>  **St Davids Primary**  0131 271 4675  [st-davids.ps@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:st-davids.ps@midlothian.gov.uk)  Acting Head Teacher Mrs Gill McPherson |  | St David's Primary SchoolParent Power!  Supporting School Attendance |
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| Why is school attendance important?  * Learn new things. * Have fun * Make new friends. * Gain new experiences. * Develop understanding of religion and beliefs. * Experience success. * Gain qualifications.   **Did you know?**  There are 175 days available for holidays outside term time!   * Develop new skills * Build confidence.   School gives your child the best possible start in life! | **Every School Day Counts** What can parents do to help support attendance?  * Have a good morning and evening routine so your child is ready for the school day. * Make sure your child arrives at school on time. * Book dental and doctor appointments out with school time. * Take family holidays during school holidays. | Attendance is so important to ensure you child is happy and achieving in school.  Something to think about;  Children who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends.  What does a 90% attendance mean?  90% attendance might sounds good but did you know that means 19 days off school every year, that’s almost a whole month!  If you had 90% attendance every year from P1 to leaving school at S6 you would have missed 247 days of school! That’s over 1 year of missed education!  Think about how big an impact an 80% attendance would have on learning. |
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