



St. Mary's PS,
Rathlin Island,
Ballycastle,
BT54 6RT,
County Antrim.

03/10/24

RE: Importance of Regular School Attendance

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the first half-term on school, I am writing to remind you about the importance of regular school attendance.

****Why Attendance Matters: ****

- Missing just two days a month can add up to 18 days per school year, which is nearly 10% of the school year.
- Students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve higher grades and succeed academically.
- Consistent attendance helps children feel more connected to their peers and their school community.

We understand that sometimes absences are unavoidable due to illness or family emergencies. However, we encourage you to minimize any non-essential absences and ensure that your child arrives at school on time each day.

****How You Can Help:****

1. Make school attendance a priority in your home.
2. Ensure your child arrives on time and is prepared for the school day.
3. Try and schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours whenever possible- obviously we understand this can be very challenging given our unique location.
4. Communicate with the school if your child will be absent due to illness or other valid reasons.

If you have concerns or require assistance regarding your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. We are here to support you and ensure that your child has every opportunity to succeed. Our school policy on attendance is included in the policies section on our website.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us make school attendance a priority.

Yours sincerely,


Mr. E McGuigan

Principal: Mr. Eddie McGuigan BEd NPQH
Phone: 02820763973 Email: info@stmarysps.ballycastle.ni.sch.uk