

Cumberland Infant School & Little Cumberland Pre-School

Methuen Road P04 9HJ

Telephone: 023 9273 3161

Pre-School: 023 9229 3586

Email: office@cumberland.portsmouth.sch.uk

Web: www.cumberland.portsmouth.sch.uk

31st January 2024

Dear parent/carer,

Over the last few weeks at Cumberland, staff, children, parents and I have been suffering from a range of illnesses, which have been quite nasty and at times have lasted longer than expected. Before Christmas, we had Chicken Pox in Year One too. Please do talk to your children about washing their hands after going to the toilet and before they eat. Also, reiterating messages staff are sharing in class with the children about wearing a jumper/cardigan and coat when outside too. I understand that some children's immune systems have been very low, and we have had some children in hospital, which cannot be helped.

We are really pleased that yesterday, for the first time in weeks, our attendance greatly improved. The odd day taken off school here and there can really hinder your child's progress in their learning. Similarly, being consistently late can make your child unsettled and upset. The children's learning starts at 8.50am so if they are late, they will miss out on reinforcing their handwriting, building relationships and phonics.

In the current climate we are living in, we understand the cost of living is hitting our families in so many ways. Unfortunately, since September 2023, I have seen a huge rise in requests for Cumberland families to go on holiday in term time. This has impacted our attendance and the children's progress, but I do understand why families are doing this. However, any requests for a term holiday will continue to be unauthorised. In addition to this, if you decide to book a term-time holiday and your children's attendance is below or falls below 95% then unfortunately, I will be issuing fines, this has always been encouraged as a course of action from Portsmouth City Council.

I hope together we can succeed in improving the attendance of all our children at Cumberland.

Becky Herbert

Headteacher

TOGETHER ~ C - Care I - Inspire S - Succeed
Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Herbert BEd