

responsible manner, both to themselves and others, showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other people at all times.

Ewart Street, Great Horton, Bradford, BD7 3NR T: 01274 575178 E: office@southmereacademy.org W: www.southmereacademy.org

Friday, 16th June, 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Persistently Absent Children**

As you have been made aware earlier in the year through direct letters and newsletters, the government sets a minimum target for attendance at 96%. However, many of our children have attendance which falls below or significantly below national expectations. I wrote to you earlier in the term to explain the impact of poor attendance.

As part of the support provided to the school by Bradford Local Authority, children for whom attendance is below 90% are referred to the Education Social Work Service (ESWS). Their purpose is to support school and families in raising and securing good attendance for all pupils. Some of our families have already worked closely with our Education Welfare Officer (EWO), Mr Tahir Majid.

Mr Majid is working with school to monitor attendance improvements made by the families of our children who we have placed on our Green Attendance Challenge. Families involved in this were notified in writing last Friday. The purpose is to allow families to make progress in attendance. However, for families whose attendance does not improve, ESWS and School have agreed the following;

- Pupils who have significant absence for medical reasons for which we have seen sufficient evidence would not be fined.
- You may shortly receive a Warning to Court letter.
- Your child's attendance will now be monitored by school. If there is no significant improvement
  in this period, the Education Social Work Service will take further action and pursue a
  prosecution at Court against you.

or

You may be issued with a fine at the beginning of the new academic year in Sept 2017.

Should you wish to discuss the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the school to make an appointment with myself, Mr Tahir (Parent Involvement Worker) or any of the Learning Mentor Team.

Kind regards,

Mrs Joanne Kershaw Mr M Tahir

Vice Principal Parent Involvement Worker







