

Friday 17th November 2017

Message from the head

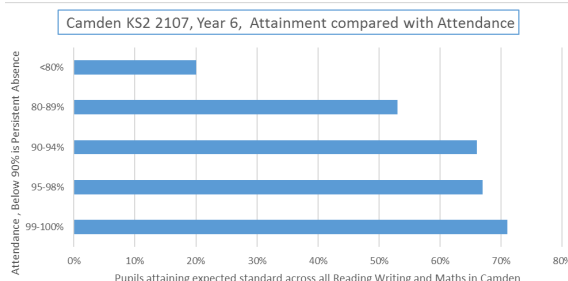


Debate Day was on Wednesday and all children discussed a number of interesting topics. Well done to everyone for their fantastic debating skills. One class's techniques were so good that they managed to persuade the house that natural disasters were not the fault of people! Do look out for the debates on the website they are great to watch. Please also look out for the letters which will be coming home with children about Parent Conferences in the week beginning 27th November. These are important opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their teacher and talk about things you can do at home. We will look forward to seeing you there.

Attendance Special

Dear Parents, we are working very hard to ensure your children get the maximum time in school to make the most progress possible. This attendance special is to show you how clear the link between children's attainment and attendance is.

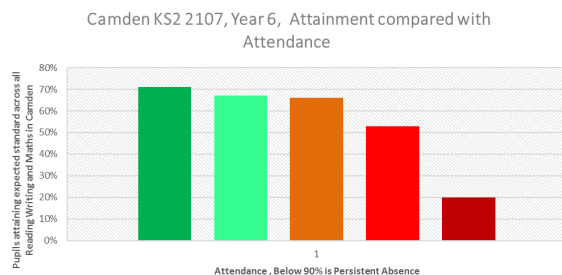
Last year and the year previously, over 80% of children who were in school 99% to 100% of the time achieved at the expected standard or above for all subjects. It was a similarly good picture for those children with 95% to 98% attendance, just a little lower. **However as soon as we look at the children whose attendance is below the 90% attendance, the pattern is clear: attainment in school suffers dramatically.**



We know and we can see, Attendance Matters.

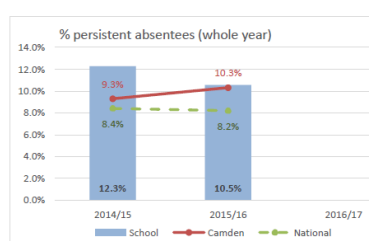
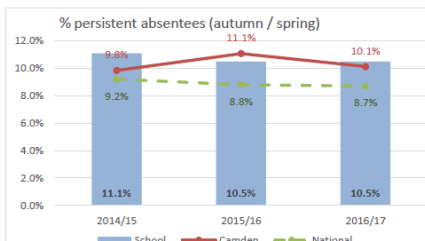
To inform parents about where their child is at in terms of attendance, please ask to see their attendance at Parent conferences and I will

be sending out letters towards the ends of term with their child's percentage of attendance. Please look out for them, they are Green, Orange or Red.



Should you receive an orange or red attendance letter, you can see why we are concerned. If you receive a red letter, your child is in the small group of children classed as "Persistent Absentees". These children often struggle to learn as their learning journey is disjointed as they miss so much school.

We have been working hard to reduce the number of Persistent Absentees and make learning easier for those children. The graphs below show that this is slowly reducing and a big thanks to all the parents who are working with us on this and trusting us to look after your children when they are a bit under the weather but can still come to school. Thank you, Tiggy.



Dates for your calendar

22nd November	Year 4 to The British Library
1st December	Year 5 to Jazz Concert at Regents High
4th December	Year 6 to HM Belfast and Church Hill Rooms
5th December	Nursery Show at 2:15pm for families
6th December	Mersea Show at 2:00pm for families
7th December	Cuba to the CLC
7th December	Reception Show 2:00pm for families
8th December	Christmas Fair
13th December	Year 1 Show 2:00pm for families
14th December	Year 2 Show 2:00pm for families
15th December	Non-Uniform Day Fundraiser
18th December	Last day of term. Note: this is a Monday
19th Dec-Jan 4th	Christmas Holidays
3rd January	INSET Day—School closed
4th January	School opens—children back

100% Attendance Prize!

We also reward children who have made a great effort to attend every day with termly prizes and certificates. This term the children have chosen the prize to go in the prize draw that all children with 100% attendance get to go in to. It is a drone! Good luck to everyone, but don't forget there are prizes every term so don't give up if you have already had a day ill this term.



(To ensure equality as much as possible, children with official religious observance days off and those with hospital appointments are also included in the 100% attenders draw.)

Well done to Sumatra class for having 100% attendance last week, keep it up and you will find learning so much easier. Good luck for the prize draw, you are bound to have lots of children in it!

School Council

Last week we had some speeches for the Chair and Vice chair of school council and then voted them in. We also voted in the publicity officer and the treasurer. The results are as follows:

Chair and Vice Chair: Isla and Jaycee

Publicity officer: Emma

Treasurer: Amos.



There were lots of people who wanted the positions and some excellent speeches were made. Well done to all those children who put effort into their speeches. Congratulations to those who won.

We also had a meeting with Caterlink. They are the people who make the food and staff the dinner hall. School Council representatives, Isaac, Emma, Max and Shakhan, asked for the soggy fish and chips to be crunchier. It was the thing most people wanted changed. The Caterlink boss, Pat and Veronika asked the reps what they thought of the new dinner hall and they said it was well improved.

By Emma Moore (Publicity Officer)



Teddy Bears Picnic

Year 1 had a Teddy Bears Picnic as a hook into their new book, 'I Want My Hat Back'. They spent the week writing invitations to their teddies for their picnic.

After looking at pictures of what bears eat they wrote shopping lists of what food they needed for their picnic. They discovered that bears love meat, fish, berries and honey. To make their picnic realistic they fed their teddy bears real bear food. They tried tuna, herring, berries and honey!



Year 6 Art

As part of their topic Around the World, children in Year 6 used water colours and oil pastels to produce art work based on the front cover of Kensuke's Kingdom.



Music in Tahiti

As part of their topic Active Planet, Tahiti used instruments to recreate the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.



Debate Day

We had another really successful debate day. All year groups researched, rehearsed and performed the proposition or opposition to a motion. There were many powerful and persuasive arguments, and even some flattery to try to sway the audiences vote. A big well done to everyone for taking part. Please visit the website soon to see a video of the day.



Golden Book Awards! And this weeks winners are...

