

## Last week

On Friday we welcomed back some very tired Year 5 children and staff. Despite being tired they all spoke really enthusiastically about the residential visit to Liverpool and said that they had had an amazing time and learnt so much. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff who gave up their time to make this visit happen, I know that the children really appreciated it.

## This week

This week we are really focusing on developing the specific programmes we have introduced in class such as PATHS and feedback. Every day as part of the PATHS approach, we will be selecting one pupil in each class as star of the day and the children will focus on giving them compliments and highlighting their strengths. We will also be encouraging all of the children to practise using the “turtle” technique we introduced last week when they are finding a situation challenging and they need to calm down. It would be really useful if you could talk to them about these things to help support them at home too. We also launched the 97% attendance challenge last week and more information about this is included in this letter. Once again, please support us to make attendance outstanding, as this can only help your child’s learning.

### Attendance for last week:

Reception: 90.7%  
Yr 1: 92.8%  
Yr 2: 94.5%  
Yr 3: 94.7%  
Yr 4: 93%  
Yr 5: 94.4%  
Yr 6: 94.2%  
Total: 93.7%

### Children with 100% attendance since September:

Reception: 4  
Yr 1: 5  
Yr 2: 8  
Yr 3: 11  
Yr 4: 4  
Yr 5: 9  
Yr 6: 7  
Total: 48

**Well done to all of you who have achieved this.**

## Attendance and Punctuality

As you may be aware, at High Craggs Academy we actively encourage our students to attend school every day and to be punctual. We have a dedicated team in the academy who monitor and support our students to maintain or improve their attendance and punctuality and we launched the “97% Plus” challenge last week. This initiative challenges each pupil in the school to be aware of their attendance on a weekly basis and offers rewards for those who are above 97% and who have improved significantly over a period of time.

Details of our rewards system are enclosed with this letter as well as the process to support parents and carers where attendance is below expectations. We hope that all of our pupils will achieve the attendance rewards on offer but we also recognise that in a few cases, despite significant support from school, attendance might not improve. In these cases it is important for all parents and carers to be aware of the process and the possible consequences.

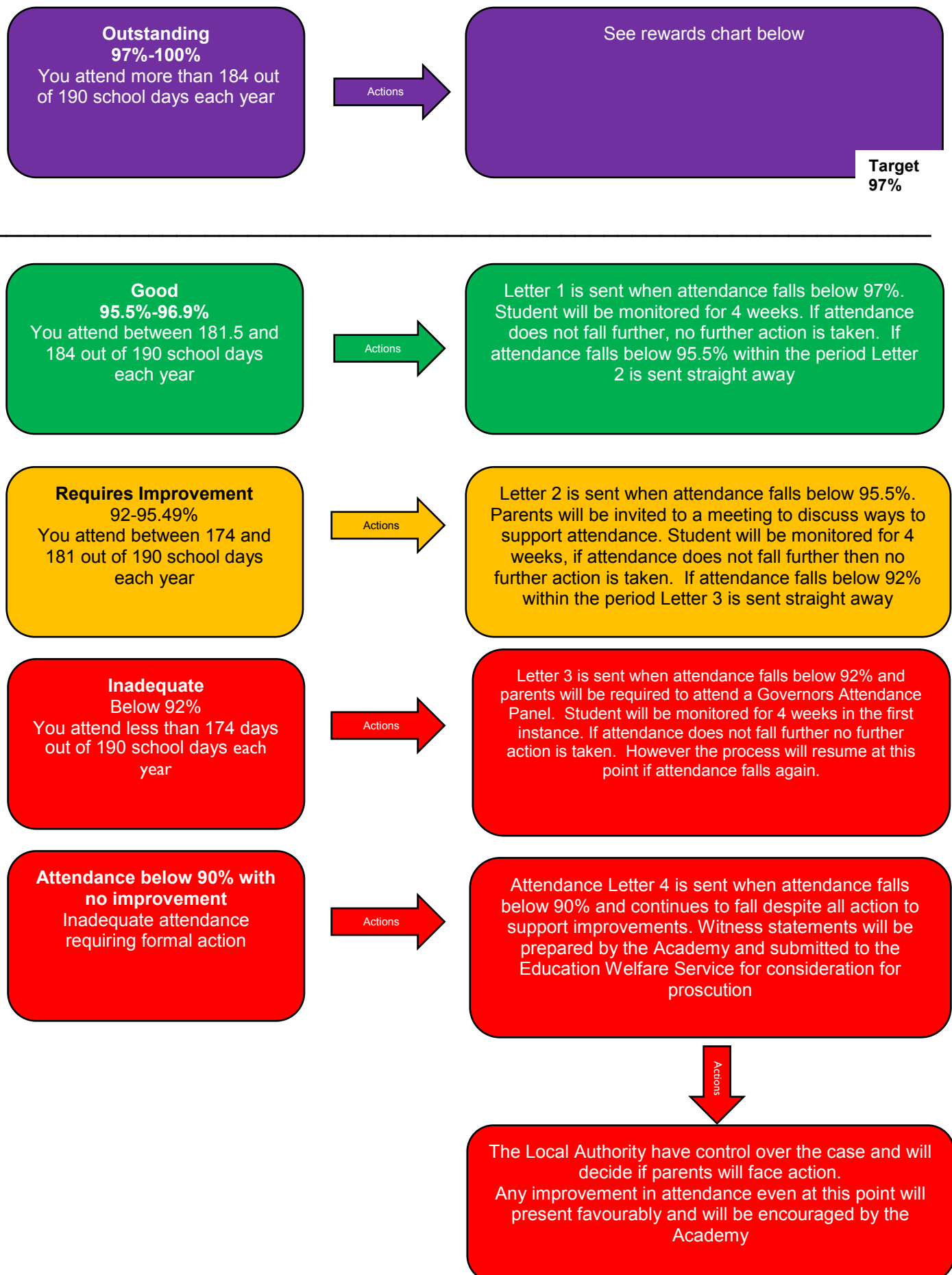
Additional documents regarding school attendance are available on the school website. If you do not have access to the internet please request a copy from the school office.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that:

- school starts at **08:55am**
- the school gates are open from **08:45am**
- registers close **30 minutes** after the start of the session
- if your child arrives after the start of the session but before the register closes they will be issued with a late mark
- after the close of registers the mark will be U which is an unauthorised absence and will affect your child’s overall attendance
- poor attendance may result in prosecution under Section 444 of The Education Act 1996

If you have any questions relating to school attendance please do not hesitate to contact school at your earliest convenience.

## Attendance Thresholds



## We reward good attendance in a variety of ways:

### Class Rewards

Each week, children have their attendance monitored in preparation for Friday's assembly. In the assembly, class attendance percentages will be shared and the class with the highest will have their name put into a draw box. At the end of the year we will make a draw from this box and the winning class will be taken on an educational visit of their choice provided by the school.

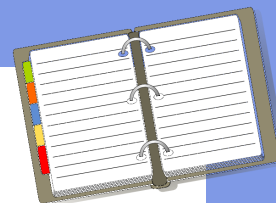
### Individual Rewards

Individual children will also be able to receive a variety of rewards. This system has been designed to encourage high attendance, however, even when a pupil has been absent, they will still be able to access the attendance rewards system at some level as we recognise that there needs to be some incentive for improving attendance even after a period of absence, so we have the "Most Improved" attendance rewards as well as the 97% and above rewards.

As a school attendance is really important to us, however we can not improve this on our own. Our pastoral team are really supportive and welcome all parents and carers to contact them if there are any difficulties. There are so many things we can do to help so please keep talking to us.

Attendance	Reward
<b>Class Rewards</b>	
Highest attendance of week	Name is placed in draw box for class educational visit.
100% for term	Class educational visit.
97% Plus for a term	Class party.
<b>Individual Rewards</b>	
100% in a week	Gold certificate. Name on attendance board and in newsletter.
100% in a half term	Gold badge. Name on attendance board and in newsletter.
97+% in a week	Silver certificate.
97+% in a half term	Silver badge. Name on attendance board and in newsletter.
97+% in a term	Invitation to attendance party at lunchtime.
<b>Most Improved Attendance</b>	
Class over a term	Class photo session and poster on attendance board.
Individuals over a half term	Most improved badge.
Individuals over a term	Most improved badge.

## Dates For Your Diary



### January

Thursday 26th—09.05—KS2 celebration assembly / 14.45—KS1 celebration assembly  
Friday 27th—Year 4 HM class assembly—09.05

### February

Thursday 16th—09.05—KS2 celebration assembly / 14.45—KS1 celebration assembly  
Friday 17th—Year 4 BT class assembly—09.05 / last day of term  
Monday 27th—Children back to school  
Tuesday 28th—Parents evening

### March

Thursday 2nd—World book day  
Thursday 16th—09.05—KS2 celebration assembly / 14.45—KS1 celebration assembly  
Friday 17th—Year 3 SP / KP class assembly  
Friday 24th —Red Nose day / Year 3 NW residential  
Friday 31st— Year 3 NW Class assembly 09.05 / Year 3 SP / KP residential

### April

Thursday 6th—09.05—KS2 celebration assembly / 14.45—KS1 celebration assembly  
Friday 7th—Easter breakfast / Last day of the term  
Monday 24th—INSET day  
Tuesday 25th—Children start back to school

## Staff Courses

This week the following members of staff are taking part in courses:

Wednesday 18th—Miss Smith and Mrs Medley am / Mrs Brooke and Miss Rauf pm—mathematics training

Thursday 19th—Miss Bowmer—RQT training

