



Smithdon High School  
Mr J Hirst  
Headteacher  
Downs Road, Hunstanton  
Norfolk PE36 5HY  
Telephone: 01485 534541  
e-mail: [office@smithdonhigh.org.uk](mailto:office@smithdonhigh.org.uk)  
website: [www.smithdonhigh.org.uk](http://www.smithdonhigh.org.uk)

Re: AGi/LT

31 January 2022

Dear parents

I am writing to thank you for your continued support during these times of Covid in ensuring the best possible attendance for your child. As you will know, any absence - however short - has an impact on a child's learning - and every hour that a child spends in school improves their potential educational success, as well as offering opportunities for social interaction, building friendships and generally learning how to communicate with others.

As such, we have been pleased to see an increase in parents encouraging their children to come into school every day, even if they have woken feeling unwell - having taken some painkillers and come in a little later - rather than keeping them off school for the whole day. This reduces the learning lost and assists in ensuring your child has a positive work ethic.

### **Reporting your child's absence – our Safeguarding Responsibilities**

We would like to explain that due to our safeguarding responsibilities, we will phone, text or send a SIMS message to families every day that a child is absent if we have not heard from that family on each day (unless you have told us about a Covid-related return to school date or been advised by the GP of a date upon which your child will return to school).

It is a legal requirement to make contact with a parent daily, to ensure that a child is not presumed to be ill when they have, in fact, travelled to school and something happened on the way to prevent them arriving. Should an incident occur, a whole day would pass before anyone would know that a child is missing.

If your child is absent, for any reason, please contact school every day, before 8.30am if possible, via a text to 07935 059774, an email to [attendance@smithdonhigh.org.uk](mailto:attendance@smithdonhigh.org.uk), or by leaving a short message on our answerphone at 01485 536123.

All schools have annual Safeguarding training and we are committed to ensuring that the safety of your children is in everything we do. We do not mean to annoy or upset by texting and I'm sure that you would support us in our endeavours.

Yours sincerely

*A. Gibbins*

**Mrs A Gibbins**  
**Head of School**

