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Dear families,

At Chilton Primary School, our core motto is “**Empowering Children Through Education.**” We firmly believe that every school day matters and that good attendance is a vital factor in ensuring our children achieve their full potential. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you the findings of a recent report from the Department for Education (March 2025), which reinforces why we place such a strong emphasis on school attendance.

The report, *The Impact of School Absence on Lifetime Earnings*, examined how absence in secondary school affects students' academic outcomes and, ultimately, their future earnings and employment prospects. The research highlights a clear link between attendance and achievement, showing that students with 95-100% attendance in Year 11 are 1.9 times more likely to achieve a Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to those with 90-95% attendance. Furthermore, for every 13 days of absence, a student's GCSE grades could drop by one grade. Over time, even occasional absences can have a significant impact.

One of the most striking findings of the report is that missing just **one** additional day of school between Years 7 to 11 is associated with a potential future earnings loss of approximately **£750**. For students who are persistently absent (missing more than 10% of sessions), the estimated future earnings loss is **£650 per missed day**. Additionally, pupils who are persistently absent are **2.7 times more likely** to need benefits in later life, while those with severe absence (over 50%) are **4.2 times more likely** to be in that position. The likelihood of being in sustained employment for 12 months also drops by **60% for persistently absent pupils** and **75% for severely absent pupils**.

While we recognise that illness and exceptional circumstances can sometimes make absence unavoidable, this report underscores why we work so hard to support families in maintaining strong attendance habits. Every day in school counts—not just for academic success now, but for opportunities in the future.

At Chilton, we are committed to working with parents to ensure that every child attends school regularly and receives the best possible foundation for their future. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or need support in improving it, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Together, we can empower our children and set them up for success.

Thank you for your ongoing support in making school attendance a priority.

Best wishes,

Mr McAuley

## ‘One Childhood One Chance’

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