2nd November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, a warm welcome back to this academic year. I hope things have started well for you.

With Symphony being a large Trust with 20 primary schools and over 6,000 pupils, we've been able to look at some in-depth pupil trends over a large period of time. Symphony's outcomes for pupils have always been well above the national average – and we want to thank you for your support with that 😊

We have looked at average attendance of pupils and outcomes over time and I felt that as supportive parents, you may be interested to see it as it really does show the link between good attendance and achievement of our pupils. As you'll probably know, pupils are tested at the end of Year 6, primarily in reading, writing and maths and here are our findings;

Below 90% attendance

Pupils who are classed as **'persistently absent'**, which are pupils missing at least one day every two weeks, **had a *60%* chance of being *below the 'expected standard'* and a less than 1% chance of being classed as a 'greater depth' writer. Our data also shows those pupils will similarly be highly likely *not* to meet the expected standard in maths or reading.**

Below average attendance

For pupils with what is termed 'below' with their attendance (ie between 90 and 94.7%), pupils ***only*** **have an up to 60% chance of being an 'expected' writer, reader or mathematician**.

For pupils with attendance above average, a considerable change is seen.

Above average attendance

Those pupils who are deemed as having 'good or better' attendance **(over 95%), their chances of being an 'expected' standard of writer, reader and mathematician *grows to nearly 80%*** and their chance of being graded as a 'greater depth' pupil rises to nearly 20%. **A huge increase.**

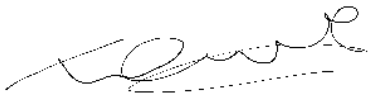
National data shows that pupils who achieve the 'expected standard' in primary school statistically progress to achieve well in their GCSEs.

So we want to get it right at primary level and give ***your*** child the very best education we can. Naturally, we can only do that with great attendance and the facts above really do speak for themselves.

A child on 90% attendance misses over 2/3 of a year's education over the primary age range and therefore will miss out on a large chunk of their education, experience and knowledge. Schools *cannot* bridge that gap.

Your support with this is ***greatly appreciated*** by us all and your child's school and I hope you have a great Autumn Term! 😊

Thank you for your ongoing support,



Tim Sutcliffe

CEO