

# EVERY DAY COUNTS: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attending school every day is essential for learning.  
It means your child can:

- **Make progress in reading, writing, maths, and other skills**
- **Feel confident in the classroom**
- **Make friends and build social skills**
- **Build good habits for life**

When children are regularly absent from school they miss out on important learning. They may get behind in their schoolwork, find it difficult to maintain friendships, and could become unsettled and anxious about coming to school.

How parents can support good attendance:

- **Have a good routine in the morning and evening so your child is organised and prepared for school**
- **Switch off devices in the evening and remove from bedrooms to encourage a good night's sleep**
- **Arrange medical and other appointments after school where possible**
- **Keep family holidays and trips away in school holiday times**
- **Talk with your child regularly about their learning and celebrate their progress**
- **Talk to your child's teacher if you're having difficulty getting your child to school or have any concerns or worries.**



1 day absent each fortnight  
= 4 weeks per year...

...which is nearly 1.5 years  
over 13 years of schooling



1 day absent each week  
= 8 weeks per year...

...which is 2.5 + years over  
13 years of schooling



2 days absent each week  
= 16 weeks per year...

...which is 5 + years over 13  
years of schooling

In New Zealand, children are legally required to attend school every day between the ages of 6 and 16.