'Those who are taught here must go out and teach others'

'I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you'

John 13: 15

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Dear Parents,
A Happy New Year to you all.
As you will know, there has been much publicity recently surrounding the national increase in children not regularly attending school.
This is a great concern as there is a direct relationship between school attendance and outcomes at GCSE and beyond. It is also evident that children not regularly attending primary school usually have even lower levels of attendance when they reach secondary school.
Schools report pupil attendance data to the Department of Education and children missing more than 10\% (1 day over a 2 -week period) are classified as persistently absent. Nationally, over $20 \%$ of children are persistently absent from school. This is a huge increase from pre-pandemic levels.
A child with $80 \%$ attendance will miss almost a year and a half of their primary schooling and many children miss significantly more than this.
I will shortly be writing to the families of children who are persistently absent from school so that you are aware of individual attendance figures.
Knowing how important school attendance is and the impact missing just a few school days can have, we are very happy to meet with parents to support good attendance in any way that we can.
Clearly some children will have periods of illness and children who are unwell, particularly with raised temperatures, should be kept at home until they are feeling better.

Best wishes,

Duncan MacRae

