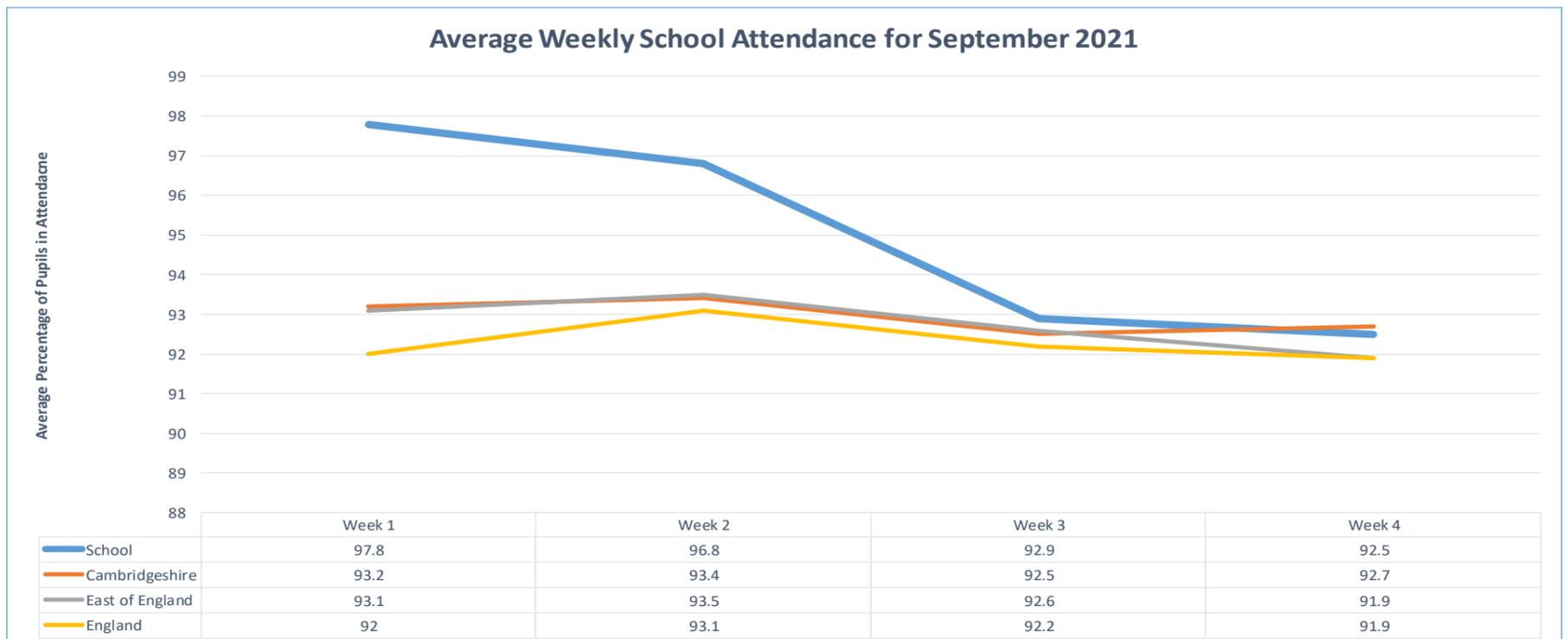


SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FALLS, BUT STILL ABOVE REGIONAL & NATIONAL DATA



The start of the new academic year saw high levels of pupil attendance in school however, as the graph above indicates, attendance levels have fallen week on week ever since.

This can be largely attributed to the sharp rise in Covid cases in Cambridgeshire. Although we have seen positive cases among staff and pupils, there is no evidence to indicate this is a consequence of transmission in school.

It is for this reason that we are keen to emphasise the importance of taking the necessary steps to reduce the risk of infection within our community.

In virtually all positive cases confirmed within the school, a household member had already tested positive. This indicates that transmission was most likely in the family home. This has significance for us as a school, as we are keen to minimise the risk of Covid coming into school and into your homes.

As you will have seen on our revised Covid protocol published at the beginning of September (http://www.sutton.cambs.sch.uk/web/contingency_plan_september_2021/570428 and http://www.sutton.cambs.sch.uk/web/covid-19_risk_assessment/547230) we have revised our day-to-day procedures to help reduce the risk of infection so as to ensure the school remains fully operational.

The Local Education Authority have published strong recommendations as to how schools can support the effort to slow the spread of Covid, many of which we as a school have not deviated from since the last lockdown. To reassure you all, we are doing the following to minimise the risk of infection in

our school:

- One way system around school grounds at the beginning and end of day
- Virtual whole school assemblies conducted via Zoom
- Staggered break and lunch times
- Limited pupil access to dining hall during lunch hour
- Limited pupil access around the school beyond the immediate vicinity of their respective classrooms
- Limited additional adults (e.g. contractors etc.) on site during school day
- Staff undertaking Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) twice a week
- Parents encouraged to consider PCR testing for pupils if they display any of the three primary symptoms published by the NHS
- As of Monday 11th October, staff will be asked to resume wearing face masks in communal areas in and around the school (not in classrooms).

We are keen to minimise any further impact of Covid on our children's learning and will do all we can to ensure the school is as safe as possible for all to learn and play.

There are many ways you can support the school, but these are of course voluntary. Please do consider use of face masks in crowded spaces and perhaps look into alternative ways to avoid large gatherings (e.g. birthday parties etc.) while Covid case numbers continue to rise. As always, your ongoing support is very much appreciated.

Mr Harrison, Headteacher

KEY DIARY DATES

11th October Wellbeing Week—'Connect' Theme

14th October Online Safety Tips—Zoom Meeting

19th & 20th October Sutton Parent Consultation Evenings

21st October FOSS Cake Break

22nd October INSET Day—School closed to pupils

1st November Start of Autumn 2 Half Term

FOSS Uniform Sale (TBC)

Reception Pupil Eye Screening (TBC)

8th November Individual Pupil Photos

10th November Flu Vaccines

15th November Anti-Bullying Week

15-18th November Year 5 Bikeability

22-25th November Year 6 Bikeability



PUPILS GET READY TO 'CONNECT' FOR WELLBEING WEEK!

Next week, we are excited to be celebrating our first wellbeing week of the year. This will be focused upon the theme, 'Connect'. At Sutton, each term we explore one of the six wells, educating all on the importance of keeping both mentally and physically healthy. This Sunday is World Mental Health Day - so why not take this time to reflect on the 6 wells and make an extra effort to connect, be active, give, learn something new, do something small to care for the planet and take notice of the beautiful world around you. Look out for 'Maths Eyes' challenges posted on ClassDojo and Facebook to connect with nature and our in-school discussions. Ask your children about our exciting work connecting with our global community in Bangladesh too!

To learn more about wellbeing, follow the link below:

[Six Ways to Wellbeing | Live Well Kent](#)



Pupils at Sutton will be connecting with children 4,824 miles away!



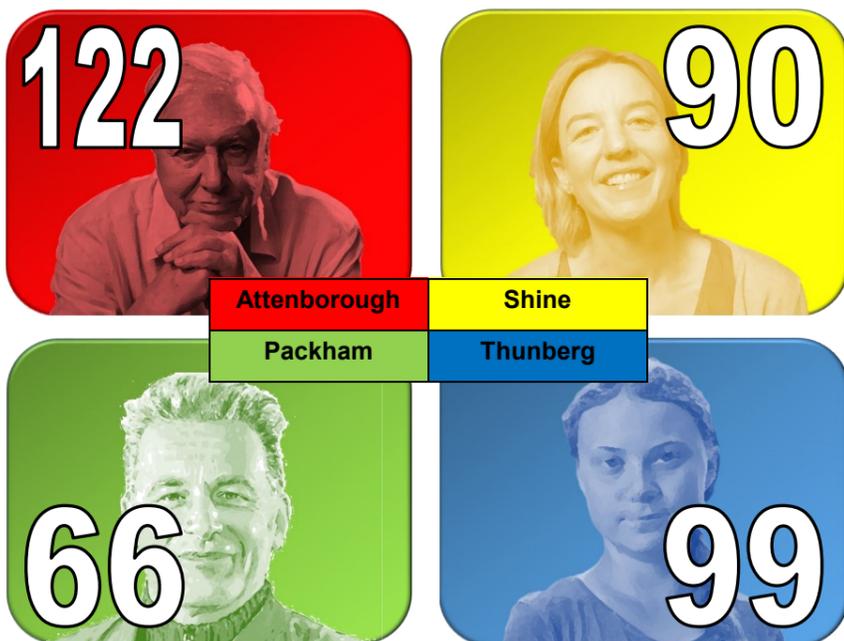
AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS PROVE HUGELY POPULAR

This week saw the introduction of eight free afterschool clubs for pupils. These have proven enormously popular with almost all running at capacity.

We are delighted to announce that 35% of all of our pupils have signed up to access one of these clubs this term alone!

If you didn't get your choice of club, please don't worry, different clubs will be announced after Christmas, but it is definitely worth joining waiting lists in the meantime as pupils may drop out before then.

WEEK 1 HOUSE POINT TOTALS CALCULATED!



Well done to all of the pupils this week who managed to secure House Points for their respective houses! I am delighted to announce the early pacesetters for our Inter-House Cup are **Attenborough House** with 122 points this week. Its very early in the year, so plenty of time for the other houses to catch up!

At the moment we are averaging around 1.5 House Points per child per week, but I know we can do more. House Points are awarded for demonstrating our school values, but grown ups can help too by attending our forthcoming parent consultations taking place later this month.

As the highest scoring House Team this week, **Attenborough House** will be acknowledged in our Celebration Assembly this week.

VIRTUAL PARENT CONSULTATION APPOINTMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

You should have all received the letter inviting you to attend our forthcoming virtual parent consultations taking place in Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th October via email and on ClassDojo.

We are really keen to ensure all parents/carers take up the opportunity to speak with their child(ren)'s class teacher, not only to get an insight into how they are doing in school, but help support in areas they might be experiencing difficulties. Together, we are confident we can minimise the impact of Covid-19 on our pupils' academic progress.

In an effort to incentivise this, parents attending will earn house points for their child(ren)'s respective teams!

If you are unable to attend, please do inform your child(ren)'s class teacher to see if alternative arrangements can be made.

Sutton CE (VC) Primary School

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Tuesday 5th October 2021

Dear Parents and carers

Due to the continued difficulties around the Covid situation, we have taken the decision to once again offer parents a consultation with the class teacher by virtual means for the Autumn term, following success last academic year.

Appointments will be arranged in the usual way via My Child at School (MCAS). Once you have signed up, the office staff will provide you with a Zoom link the day before the meeting via Class Dojo, that can be used to access the meeting with the teacher at the relevant time. Please note that the teacher will let you into the meeting as soon as they are able to do so, but that this depends upon the previous parent leaving their meeting after the 10 minute allocated period - so please do try to stick to timings in order to create equal opportunity for everyone.

Please note that for Zoom meetings, there are some expectations that we would like to draw your attention to and these are as follows:

- Switch the settings to have microphones and videos off when joining a session until you have been requested to join the meeting.
- Sessions are NOT to be recorded by parents.
- During sessions, screen shots using the device or other devices are strictly NOT allowed.
- Learn how to mute and unmute, including video screens.
- Be conscious of background environments and others in the room.
- Staff will have a school lanyard on during the meeting
- Staff and pupils will wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms; and where possible be against a neutral background.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Please ensure background noise is minimised to allow a good flow of conversation.
- Please note if you are late for the session, you can still join but will not be able to continue past your scheduled meeting end time.
- The teacher will notify you when the meeting is coming to an end and they do have the facility to end the meeting if required.



SUTTON PROUD TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Pupils across the school have been learning about National Black History Month, what it means and why we have it.

We have begun looking at how the colour of ones skin can influence not only how you are treated, but also the very rights you should be entitled to.

This has led to looking in more detail at some influential black figures; Dr Martin Luther King has been the focus for this week. Do ask your children what they have learnt!

