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Dear Parents and Carers,

Introducing TEAM EWS Attendance Service and our Allocated Education Welfare Officer

At Chattenden Primary school, we want to ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed. Excellent school attendance and punctuality are vital parts of that journey. To help us support our families, we work closely with TEAM EWS, an independent Education Welfare Service.

We are delighted to introduce Avril Groves, who will be working alongside our school as our dedicated Education Welfare Officer (EWO) for this academic year. Avril Groves brings a wealth of experience in educational welfare and safeguarding. They will be working with us to spot attendance barriers early and provide support for families.

How TEAM EWS supports our school community:

- Early Support: Helping families overcome specific barriers to school attendance, including school anxiety or emotionally based school avoidance.
- Attendance Meetings: Meeting with parents and carers to listen to your concerns and build collaborative, supportive attendance plans.
- Connecting Services: Linking families with Medway Council's early help and community support teams when extra help is needed.

As a school, we have a legal duty to follow Department for Education guidelines and Medway Council's attendance codes of practice.

While formal pathways and legal measures exist for prolonged, unaddressed absences, our absolute priority is always to work with you voluntarily and supportively.

Avril Groves will be working on-site regularly. If you feel your child is struggling with school attendance or punctuality, please reach out to our school attendance team early so we can connect you with the right support. Thank you for your continued partnership in maximising your child's education.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Diddams