



## St. Paul's School

MANIBUS POTENTIA STUDIUM ANIMIS

Dear parents,

As you might know, I was very concerned at the poor levels of attendance of pupils throughout the school in the first week or two of this term. The pastoral team, led by Mrs Fregonesi have worked hard in the senior school to address this. In the prep and pre-prep schools the story has been the same and we have been delighted by the support shown by parents of pupils throughout the school to our new attendance email address ([absence@stpauls.br](mailto:absence@stpauls.br)) which has really helped us to work together to ensure that pupils are in school every day and that we know where they are when they are absent. We firmly believe that attendance at school is crucial if we are going to be able to support your son or daughter to achieve their potential and we are very grateful to those of you who have been so active in supporting us in this.

Of course we recognise that some absences are unavoidable; sickness, religious festivals, medical appointments and school visits for example are all valid reasons why children may not be at school from time to time. But I remain concerned by some pupils' attendance levels, at all stages throughout the school. And I thought I would use this opportunity to share some of the data with you. It is clear to me that the periods either side of a holiday are considered by some parents as 'travelling time'. Hence, the two days leading up to the half term, and two days afterwards we have again seen high levels of absence.

In the UK, in a state funded school, the expected level of attendance is 94%. Anything worse than that is a cause for concern and will affect the school's inspection rating. I think that we should use this as a minimum benchmark for St Paul's too.

This term the best day for attendance had just 24 pupils absent across the entire school population of over 1000 pupils. This is excellent and on most days of the first half of term the figure was very good, between 20 and 40.

Leading up to half term, and afterwards, the picture changes (not including partial day absences, ie early departures from school).

|                 | 2nd October | 3 <sup>rd</sup> October | 13 <sup>th</sup> October | 14 <sup>th</sup> October |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total no absent | 54          | 98                      | 100                      | 65                       |
| No in Pre-Prep  | 17          | 32                      | 24                       | 23                       |
| No in Prep      | 17          | 28                      | 24                       | 15                       |
| No in Senior    | 20          | 38                      | 52                       | 27                       |
| No travelling   | 22          | 47                      | 48                       | 26                       |

FUNDAÇÃO ANGLO BRASILEIRA DE EDUCAÇÃO E CULTURA DE SÃO PAULO  
ESCOLA BRITÂNICA DE SÃO PAULO

Rua Juquiá, 166 – Jardim Paulistano – CEP 01440-903 – São Paulo – SP – Brasil  
Tel.: (5511) 3087-3399 – Fax: (5511) 3087-3398

As you can see, we have a large number of children who are reported absent as travelling. I would like us to reduce this to zero. We have generous holiday allowances and I would hope that all families can find sufficient time in the school holidays to spend quality time together. Please help us to achieve this by planning your departure flights after the holiday begins and your return flights with plenty of time before the school term recommences.

Bearing in mind the overall target of 95% attendance by every pupil, I thought you might be interested in the overall data for the term to date.

|  | Pre-prep | Prep | Senior | Whole school |
|--|----------|------|--------|--------------|
| Total pupils                                       | 232      | 369  | 467    | 1070         |
| Pupils with less than 95% attendance               | 89       | 72   | 101    | 262          |
| Percentage of pupils with less than 95% attendance | 38%      | 20%  | 22%    | 24%          |

As you can see, almost one quarter of all the pupils in the school have been absent for at least 5% of the teaching time this term.

I am delighted that there are so many pupils with 100% attendance too, right across the school and also that the reporting procedures are working so well. You are all very supportive about keeping in touch with us and letting us know the situation with your children, or requesting permission for your son or daughter to be absent. This is much appreciated.

I very much hope that you will be able to help us to work towards 100% attendance for every single pupil. This will allow teachers to plan and deliver programmes of study which allow your child to progress and develop along with all their peers, to reach their potential. Ask any teacher; there is nothing more frustrating than teaching an incomplete class and then having to teach it all again when the absentees have returned.

Thank you for your support and kind regards,

Louise Simpson  
Head