

Mind the Gap!
Good habits, Good chance.

Can you see what this is?



Yes! A Kangaroo!



Easy once you have **all** the pieces (no gaps)...

How about now?

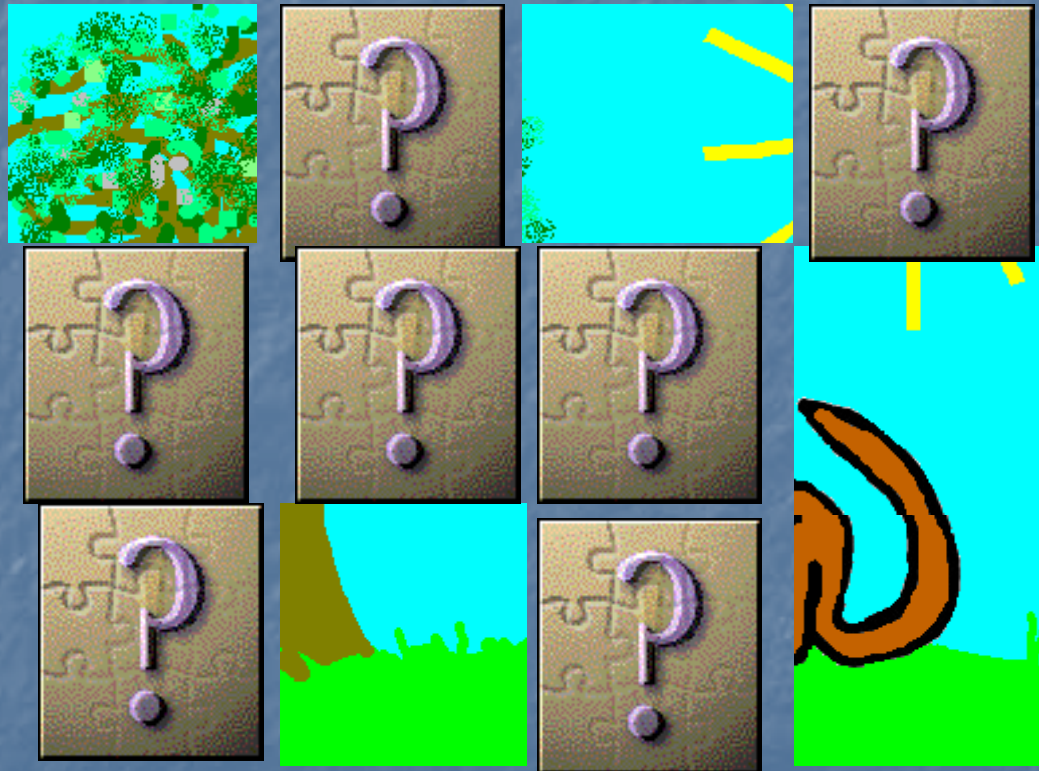


Missing pieces = missing learning

Days off = gaps in learning (missing pieces)

So what?

Well, it is hard to build on gaps..

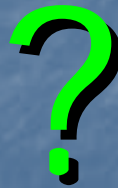


Primary Education is the **foundation**
for life long learning.....



Get into **good habits** and mind the gap!

- Do you know what your child's attendance is?
- Do you know what it means?



This is Simon. He is in Year 3 and has 90% attendance.

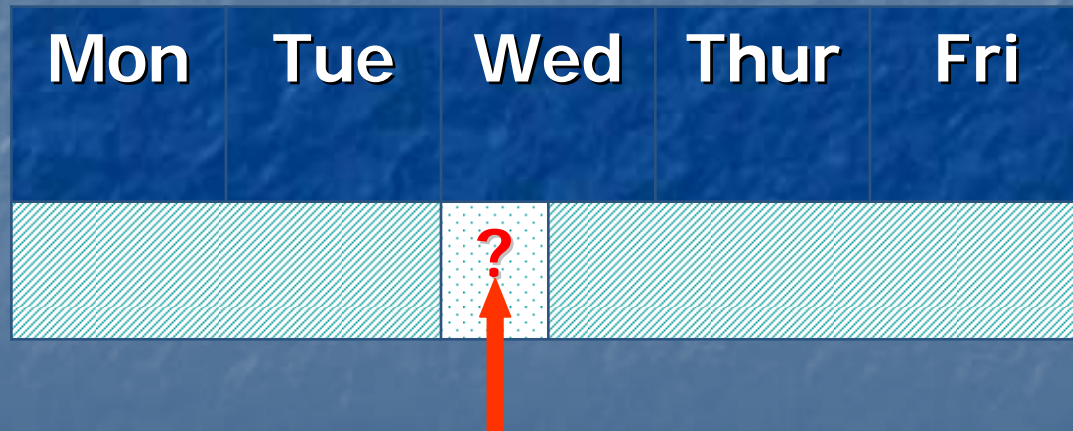
- Is that good?
- What does this mean?



Simon thinks this is pretty good, so do his parents. Are they right?

90% attendance = **$\frac{1}{2}$ day missed**
every week!!

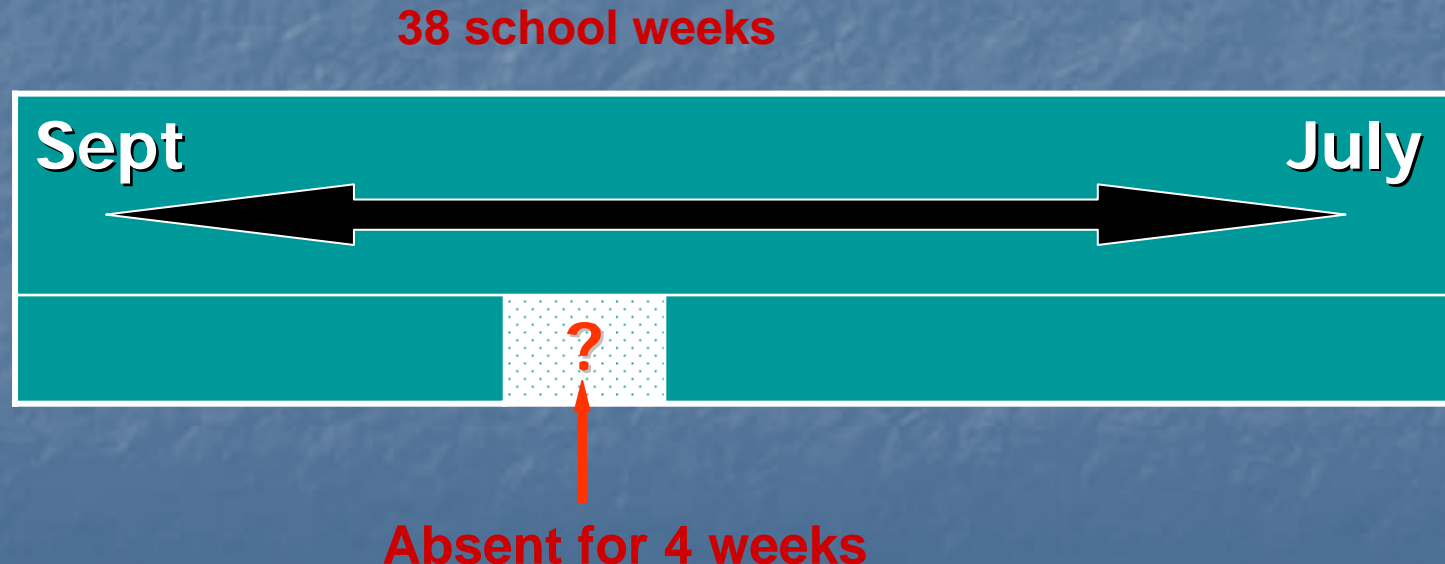
(Would your boss like you to be off work this much??). That's practically part time!



Absent half a day every week

Lets looks a little closer.....

1 school year at **90%** attendance = **4** whole weeks of lessons **MISSED!!! = BIG GAP**



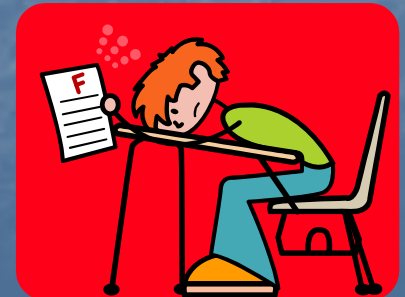


Possible future view....



Everyone else gets it... I find learning so hard. Perhaps I'll pretend to be ill again tomorrow. I'll never get a well paid job.

Persistent truants are
3 times more likely to
commit crime



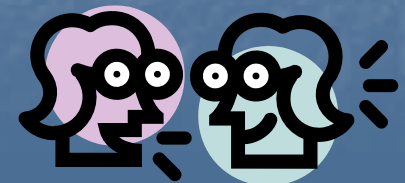
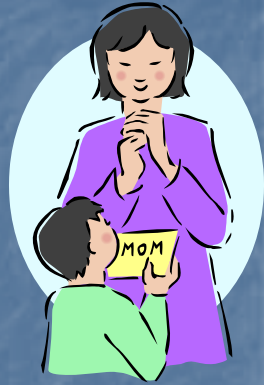
So **90%** is **not** as good as it first seemed.

What can **I** do as a parent to increase my child's attendance?



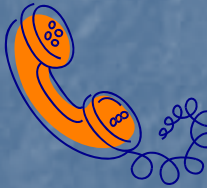
Ways for parents to encourage attendance:

1. Establish **GOOD ATTENDANCE HABITS** ~ little ones look to you as a role model, show them it's important.
2. **Start now** ~ little ones are easier to **influence**
3. **Regularly** check your child's **absence** with your **own record**.
4. **Talk** regularly with your child about school and how they feel about it. More likely to want to attend and learn if they feel supported and anxieties **listened** to.



Ways for parents to encourage attendance:

5. **Phone** us as soon as possible to tell us why your child is absent, and when you expect them to return. Putting the school number in your phone can save you time.
6. Only grant days at home for **genuine** illness. (you will know! **Weakness now = problems later**)
7. **Arrange** for a friend to take your child to school if a sibling is sick... it's not fair to prevent a well **child** from **learning**.
8. **Avoid** taking holidays in school time.



Ways for parents to encourage attendance:

9. Know **routines** of the school **day** to avoid issues, e.g. have they got their PE kit?
10. Help your child get everything ready the night before e.g. uniform, reading book
11. Establish a good bedtime routine, so your child can sleep well, get enough sleep and make mornings less of a struggle!
12. **PRAISE AND REWARD GOOD ATTENDANCE:** even small successes, e.g. getting ready quickly, even if resisting going to school.



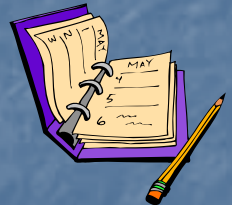
Other tips to help secure good attendance:

1. If there is a **problem** with your child's attendance, **talk calmly** to your child and **listen** to the **explanation**. There is *always* an explanation. It may not impress you, but it is important enough to them to be putting them off school. Pursuing the **reason** for not wanting to attend is **important**.
2. Talk to us -we maybe able to help and support you and your child. You are **not alone**, we can work together to find **solutions** so that little problems don't become **BIG** ones.
3. Allow **plenty of time** to travel to school



Other tips to help secure good attendance:

4. Set an **alarm clock** – rushing is unsettling
5. Be particularly watchful and supportive in the run up to **tests** and be aware of **friendship groups**.
6. Find out if there is a **school breakfast club** to go to.
7. **Help** them **catch up** with missed work, missed day doesn't mean missed work.
8. Remember **PRAISE** for good attendance.



Mind the Gap!!!

Whilst you are away for 1 week....
Your child will miss about

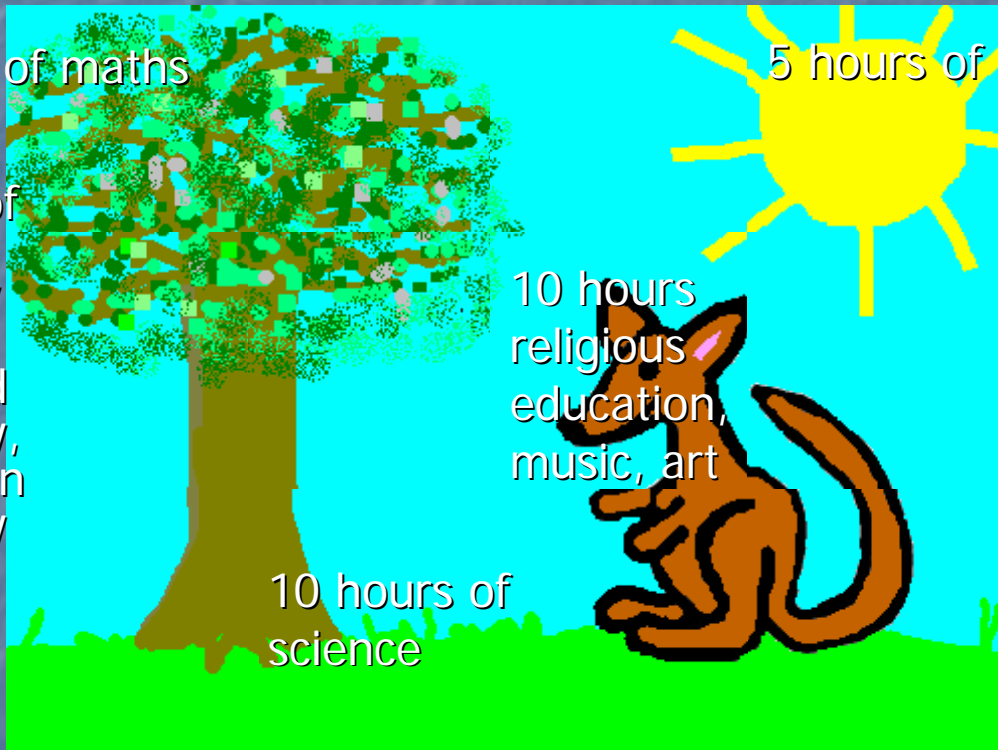
5 hours of maths

5 hours of literacy

10 hours of
PE,
geography
history,
design and
technology,
Information
technology

10 hours
religious
education,
music, art

10 hours of
science



Week before they
may feel
isolated as they
are going to
miss out, or too
excited to
concentrate

Week after may
feel worried as
there are GAPS
in their learning
and they don't
understand

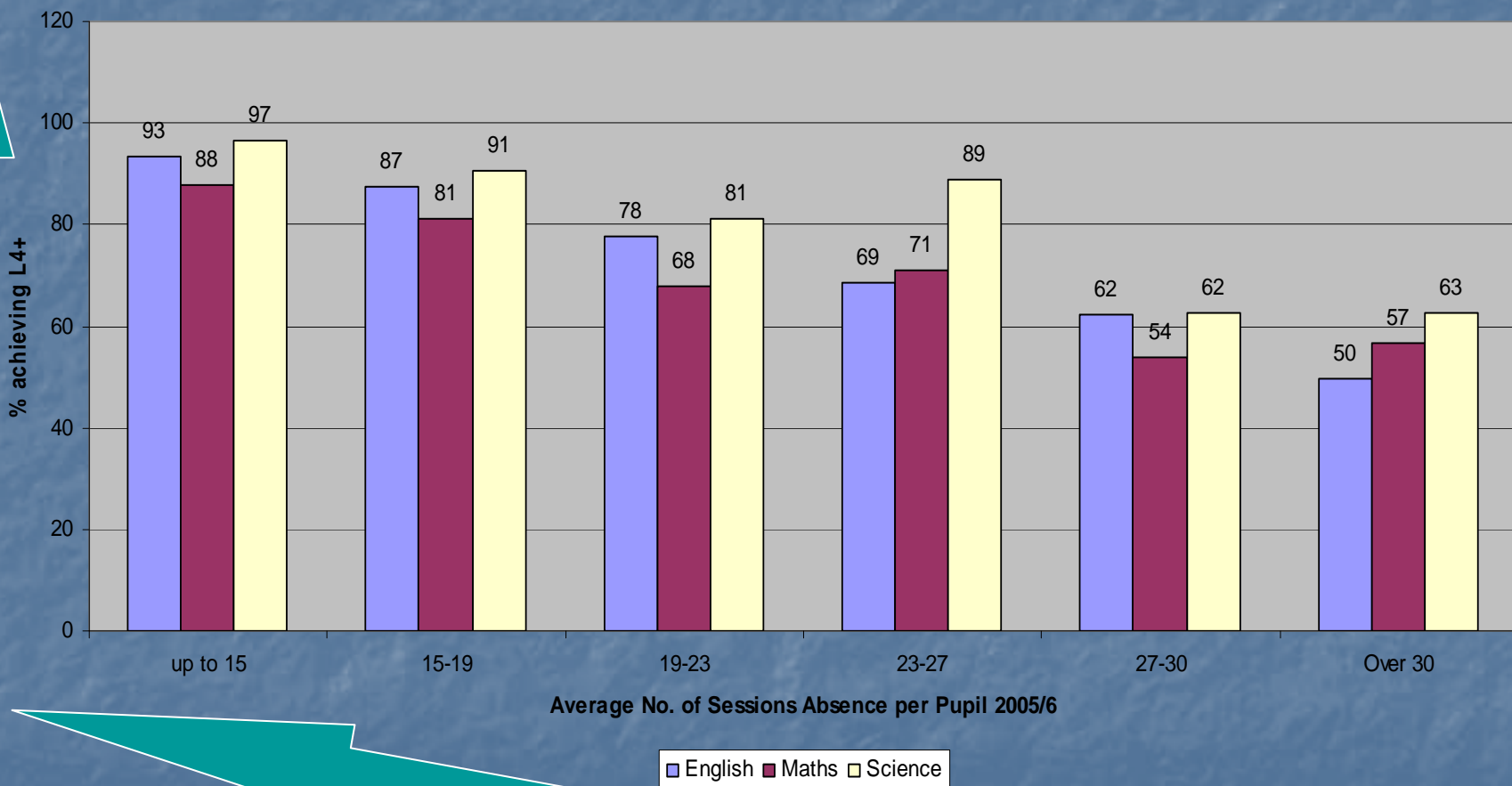
Do you / your child "mind the Gap?"

Another thing to think about.....

Whilst absent **friendship** groups may have changed..... can = **unhappiness** and **prevents learning**.



Bromley Primary School Key Stage 2 Results by Average Absence Sessions 2005/6



Mind the Gap! Attend and Achieve!

- If a school can **improve** attendance by **1%**, they will see a **5-6%** improvement in **attainment**. (Department for Education and Skills)
- Please **help** us and **your child** by ensuring their attendance remains above **95%**, allowing them to **achieve** their potential.

Get into GOOD HABITS today!

