

Headteacher

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Attendance Information

Dear Parents and carers,

As you know, we take the attendance of our pupils extremely seriously. Research shows that good attendance is directly linked to academic achievement. Furthermore, good attendance ensures wider school experiences for our pupils, including enrichment opportunities. Section 8 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on parents to ensure that their children receive efficient full-time education if they are of compulsory school age.

Although we are only a few weeks into the new academic year, we have already received a number of requests from parents to take their children out of school for discretionary leave. The stance of the school, the Local Authority and the Government is that children should not be missing school. Due to this, it is highly likely any holidays or trips away (either abroad or in the UK) will be unauthorised. Parents may also be issued with a fixed penalty notice fine by the local authority of £160 per child, per parent, should you choose to take your child out of school during term time.

In addition to this, we have recently been made aware by the local authority's legal team, that parents who have previously been issued with a penalty notice for extended leave in term-time (e.g. for going on holiday) can be issued with a **court summons** for subsequent periods of extended leave in term-time, instead of a penalty notice. The introduction of this measure shows how seriously time away from school is being taken.

You may have heard in the media recently, the Department for Education is concerned about the high levels of persistent absence across the country. A pupil only has to miss the equivalent of 1 week of school each term (either due to illness or leave) to be at risk of becoming persistently absent. When this happens, school are required to alert the Local Authority and fine may be issued to the family.

As always, we want to work with the families and community we serve, in order to best support the pupils with their education and we appreciate your support with this matter.

Kind Regards

Mrs N Truman
Headteacher

Miss T Oxendale
Attendance Lead