

# Important Information Regarding Holidays



Dear Parents and Carers,

The Government discourages the taking of holidays in term time. Evidence shows that children who miss school do not achieve as well as those who attend regularly.

As of September 2013, the law restricted a Headteacher's ability to authorise holidays during term time, Headteachers are now only empowered to approve a leave of absence when it is requested in advance by the parent or carer with whom the child resides, and when circumstances of the requested leave are 'exceptional'.

**From September 2017, should you choose to take a holiday for 5 consecutive school days or more during term time the Local Authority will be informed as this will constitute an unauthorised absence. A Fixed Penalty Notice will then be issued in accordance with Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.**

The law stipulates that the current penalties payable by parents/carers are £60 when the penalty is paid within 21 days, and £120 when the penalty is paid within 28 days. This penalty is per parent/carer, per child. If the fixed penalty is not paid this could lead to you being prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact school and speak to Jen Hughes.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sarah Tomlinson  
Headteacher

**Darnhall Primary School, Sandyhill Road, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 1JL**

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