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28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Holidays during term time**

Despite the rain, our calendar tells us it is Spring and thoughts may well be turning to planning for trips and holidays away.

While we are well aware that the cost of holidays during off-peak times is significantly lower, it is important that you consider the significant drawbacks of taking your child out of school during term time – both academically and socially.

- Missing school due to a holiday directly impacts your child's academic progress. Every lesson, activity, and interaction in the classroom contributes to their learning journey. By opting for holidays during term time, your child inevitably misses out on valuable educational experiences.
- In addition, their time in primary school is the time when children develop crucial social skills and form friendships. Missing school for extended periods disrupts this fundamental aspect of their development and could lead to feelings of being disconnected from their peers.

As you will have often read in our school newsletters, we are now issuing fixed Penalty Notices to parents who take their child out of school for holidays. The amount payable on issue of a Penalty Notice is £60 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days of receipt of the Notice, rising to £120 per parent/carer per child if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. If the Penalty Notice is not paid within 28 days, the Local Authority must prosecute the parent(s)/carer(s) for failing to ensure regular school attendance under Section 444 Education Act 1996.

Please help us to help your child achieve their very best in school, by only booking holidays during the school breaks, and prioritising their attendance in school every day.

Every day in school really does count.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs. Sian McCarthy**



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