



St John the Baptist C of E Primary School

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Head Teacher: Miss R Ireland



15/12/23

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our ongoing assurance that all pupils receive the best educational experience that they can, the school analyses data including attendance. This term we have seen a dramatic increase of requests for leave of absence.

We understand that holidays in term time are often cheaper but the impact on your child's education could be greater. Being surrounded by teachers and friends in a school environment is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their full potential. Attending school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Being absent from learning causes disruption to the pattern of learning. Evidence shows that the pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best exam results.

Above 97%: Less than 6 days absence a year (up to 36 lessons)

Excellent attendance! These young people will almost certainly get the best grades they can, leading to better prospects for the future. Pupils will also get into a habit of attending school which will help in the future.

95%: 10 days absence a year (60 lessons)

These pupils are likely to achieve good grades and form a habit of attending school regularly. Pupils who take a 2 week holiday every year can only achieve 95% attendance.

90% and below; 19 days + absence a year (114 +lesson)

The Government classes young people in this group as "Persistent Absentees" and it will be almost impossible to keep up with work. Parents of young people in this group could also face the possibility of legal action being taken by the Local Authority.

There is no entitlement by law, to time off in term time and leave of absence is only allowed at the discretion of the head teacher in accordance with the school policy and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

Impact of term time holidays

Below is the school's attendance data related to term time holidays taken for 3 years.

Class	2021/2022 Days missed	2022/2023 Days missed	2023/2024 Days missed so far this term
foundation	20	29	24
Class 1	9	31	10
Class 2	52	16	21
Class 3	48	51	18
Class 4	28	50	8
Class 5	9	30	10
Class 6	14	16	20
Total	180 days	223 days	111 days

As you can see from this data, we are already at 50% of holiday requests compared with the whole year in 22/23 and over 50% of 21/22, and this is for just one term! Therefore, we need to make an improvement.

At termly governor's meetings, attendance reports are presented and analysed. At the autumn term meeting the option of issuing fixed penalty notices for term time holidays was discussed at length due to this high increase in our school and the disruption caused to learning.

The outcome of this meeting was that the situation and attendance records be continually scrutinised to see if there is a reduction in term time holidays. Depending on whether there is an improvement in the number of term time holidays, the option of issuing fixed term penalty notices will be raised again at the spring term meeting. Therefore, we are asking that the school and families can work together to reduce the number of term time holidays being taken, by asking families to consider the impact of missed attendance before making any bookings.

We hope that you can support us with this matter and ensure that our pupils receive the best educational experience that they can.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs R Whitt
Attendance Officer/Family Link Officer