



Somerford Primary School

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Executive Headteacher : Mrs S Matthews

Head of School : Mrs H Frampton

Dear Parents

LEAVE DURING TERM TIME

In September 2013 amendments were made to the 2006 Regulations in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 which made it clear that **'Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances'**. Headteachers would therefore determine the number of school days a child could be away from school, if the leave were granted. Evidence would also be required for any application for leave before the school considers whether it is 'exceptional'.

There are 190 school days in a year. This means there are 175 other days in which to take holidays or short breaks. We appreciate that many families find it cheaper to take holidays during the school term but we have to inform you that any holiday taken will now have to be marked as an unauthorised absence, unless there is an exceptional circumstance.

Taking your child out of school for 2 weeks (10 school days) will reduce their attendance to 94% before any illness is taken into consideration. The national average last year was 96.1% and this is our current school target. Research shows that children who are taken out of school for holidays may never catch up on the work they've missed and the impact is greater at primary school than at secondary school.

We would however ask that you continue to complete the 'application for leave' forms available from Reception so that we know where your children are if they are not in school. This will prevent unnecessary daily text messages and telephone calls being made to you querying the cause of their absence.

If you take your child on holiday this will be marked as an unauthorised absence and you risk a £80 Penalty Notice which would be issued by the Local Authority.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Frampton
Head of School