

Wednesday, 04 October 2023

Request for term time holidays

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the importance of maintaining consistency and maximizing school term time for your child's education.

Recently we have received a number of requests for authorised absence to take children out of school for term time holidays. As family holidays are not exceptional circumstances these requests have been declined.

As you may already be aware, there are [legal regulations](#) in place regarding taking students on holiday during term time. Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 states that parents are required to ensure their child attends school regularly, and any unauthorised absence during term time can result in penalties.

We understand the desire for family holidays, but it's essential to consider the impact on your child's education. Regular attendance in school allows them to benefit fully from the curriculum and educational experiences we offer. Missing school days can disrupt their learning and progress.

To emphasise the seriousness of this matter, we want to make it clear that parents who take their children out of school for a family holiday during term time may [face a fixed penalty notice](#). This notice carries a monetary penalty and legal consequences, which we all want to avoid.

At Church Lawton we are committed to providing a nurturing and inclusive educational environment for all our students, particularly during term time. These dedicated periods allow us to focus on specific educational initiatives, enhance learning experiences, and foster a sense of community within our school.

Here are a few key reasons why we request that you avoid taking your children on holiday during these special school term times:

1. **Unique Educational Opportunities:** term time provides us with the opportunity to organise and implement various educational programmes, interventions, and events tailored specifically to benefit your children's learning and personal growth. These initiatives are designed to enrich their educational experience and help them develop new skills and perspectives.
2. **Academic Progress and Continuity:** Taking holidays during term time may disrupt the flow of instruction and curriculum delivery. The lessons, projects, or assessments conducted during this period may not be easily made up if missed. By prioritising consistent attendance, your child can fully benefit from these specialised learning experiences, ensuring they stay on track with their academic progress.
3. **Inclusive Community:** term time often brings together the entire school community, including students, parents, and staff, to participate in shared activities and celebrations. These moments of togetherness foster a sense of belonging and reinforce our school's values and culture. By being present during these occasions, your child can actively participate and contribute to the overall community spirit.

By collaborating and maintaining consistent attendance during term time, we can collectively enhance your child's educational journey and create a more cohesive and fulfilling school environment. Our primary goal is to provide the best possible education for your child, and consistent attendance plays a vital role in achieving this. We encourage you to plan vacations during school breaks to ensure that your child receives a continuous and uninterrupted education.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,



Paul Scales
Principal