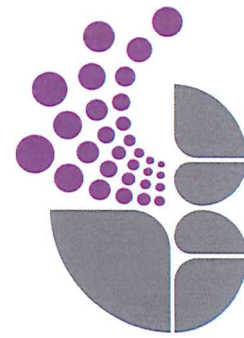


MEREWAY
NORTHAMPTON
NORTHANTS
NN4 8BU

T 01604 763616
F 01604 765036
PRINCIPAL: CLAIRE MORRELL
enquiries@abbeyfieldschool.org.uk
www.abbeyfieldschool.org.uk



October 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian

PLANNED ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME (HOLIDAYS)

We have received the following updated information from the Local Authority stating that The Department for Education (DfE) has announced important amendments to legislation surrounding absence in term time. The following applies to all students of statutory school age.

*"From 1 September 2013, the new law gives **NO entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time.** Any application for leave must only be in exceptional circumstances and the Head teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional and warrant the granting of leave. Head teachers would not be expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional.*

*Parents can be fined by the Local Authority for taking their child on holiday during term time without the consent of the school i.e. **A Fixed Penalty Notice of £60.00 would be issued to each parent for each child:** i.e. (two parent family, two children = £240.00 and the following would apply: £60.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120.00 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt.*

In the academic year 2011, 9.7% of all absences in England were due to parents taking their children out of school during term time. The high level of absence has led the Department for Education to make this important decision. As a local Authority, we fully appreciate the financial difficulties that some parents face when booking holidays, particularly during school holidays.

However, we are expecting that all schools in Northampton introduce firm policies and stringent checks to ensure that there is a significant reduction in the number of absences during term time and challenging schools and parents who do not adhere to the new legislation."

As you know, at Abbeyfield School we have adhered to the policy of not authorising holiday absence since government guidelines recommended it in 2006.

We look forward to your continued co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Claire Morrell
Principal

**ABBNEYFIELD
SCHOOL**
*Creative
Education
Trust*



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

