



Backwell School

An Ofsted Outstanding School
A National Teaching School

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Headteacher: Julian Baldwin MA

November 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

Request for Holiday Absence

Following recent media coverage on possible changes to holiday absence requests during term time I felt this would be a good opportunity to clarify the position here at Backwell School.

Current national legislation still states that the school will not authorise any term time holiday leave unless due to "exceptional circumstances". This does not include:

- Family holidays in the UK or abroad
- Relatives coming to visit
- Family Day Trips
- Visiting friends/family who have different holiday periods
- Holidays in term time being significantly cheaper

If you feel your request is an exceptional circumstance please email mailbox@backwellschool.net marked for the attention of Mr Houghton – every case is considered on an individual basis.

National guidance is clear that schools should take firm action against parents and carers who remove children from school for unauthorised holidays, so we would like to reiterate information laid down in our Attendance Policy that the school will instigate Fixed Penalty Notice proceeding where appropriate. We would also record this as an unauthorised absence on your child's record.

The school mailbox email address can also be used to inform us of medical appointments. These are also logged on your child's record but as an authorised medical absence. Please do ensure you inform us of such appointments so that your child's attendance record is not adversely affected.

There are proven direct links between high attendance and high achievement. Please help us to ensure your child achieves their very highest potential.

Yours sincerely

Julian Baldwin
Headteacher