

CROSSGATES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/ Carer,

The Department for Education (DfE) announced important amendments to legislation surrounding holidays in term time.

In the academic year 2011 to 2012, 9.7% of all absences in England were due to parents taking their children out of school during term time. This high level of absence has led the Government to make this important change in legislation.

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 are not expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional and will now also determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

Parents may receive a Penalty Notice fine from the Local Authority for taking their child out of school during term time without consent from the school. The fine is £60 per child per parent if paid within 21 days and £120 if paid between 22 and 28 days. Failure to pay the fine could lead to prosecution in magistrate's court.

As a school, we fully appreciate the financial difficulties that some parents face when booking holidays during school holidays, however the Local Authority will be monitoring all school absences during term time and challenging schools and parents that do not adhere to the new legislation.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the school and the governors to thank you for your full support in this matter by not taking your child out of school during term time.

Further information can be obtained from www.dfe.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Head teacher.