

Lees Primary School
Holidays in Term Time – Amendments to 2007 Regulations

Dear Parents

May 2014

It is well recognised that good, consistent attendance at school is crucial to a child or young person's future prospects. Reducing absence from school continues to be a priority both nationally and locally, because missing school damages pupils' attainment levels, disrupts school routines, affects the learning of others and can leave young people vulnerable.

Both locally and nationally, term time holidays continue to be a major cause of absence from school. Term time holidays are the second most common cause of absence, after illness, in Bradford primary schools. Your support in taking holidays within the school holiday dates would be very much appreciated.

The Pupil Registration Regulations 2007 allowed the Headteacher to grant leave of absence for the purpose of a family holiday during term time in 'special circumstances' of up to ten school days leave per year. However, the Department of Education has published amendments to these Regulations which will come into force in September 2013 and relate to Holidays in Term Time and Penalty Notices.

The amendment removes reference to 'family holidays' as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make it clear that the Headteacher cannot grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Absence due to unauthorised holiday leave may result in a Penalty Notice being issued by the Local Authority. An amendment to the 2007 Regulations reduces the timescale for paying these. Parents must, from 1st September 2013, pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days. This brings Attendance Penalty Notices into line with other types of penalty notices and allows local authorities to act faster on prosecutions. Please be aware that the timescales and penalties are subject to change in the future.

Yours sincerely

Mrs G Holland

Headteacher