



**St Sebastian's
Catholic Primary School**

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**St. Cuthbert's
Catholic Primary School**

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8th May 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to remind you that holidays in term time will not be authorised under any circumstances. This is in accordance with directives from central government that came in to force in September 2013. The policy of the Local Authority and the Governors of our federated schools is that parents who take their children out of school for holidays in term time will be referred to the Education Welfare Service with a view to a Penalty Notice being issued. *The result of this is that the parents may receive a fine.*

Parents often tell us that the holiday has been paid for by a relative and that they have no choice but to take it. Please share the information in this letter with your relatives. If your child has a holiday in term time it is you who will be referred to the Education Welfare Service for further action not the relative who paid for the holiday.

The Attendance targets we have been set for this academic year are 97% for St Cuthbert's and 98% for St Sebastian's. While these targets are aspirational they have been set because of the attendance levels we have achieved in recent years (and 97% is the level expected in every school in the country). The current level for St Cuthbert's is 95.3% and 96.6% at St Sebastian's. As you can see we are quite a way from achieving our goal in both schools. We need your help if we are going to raise these levels.

If you take your child on holiday for 2 weeks this means that they are missing more than 5% of their entitlement to education and it also means that they cannot achieve the attendance target that has been set.

I have included term dates for the rest of this year and next academic year – please keep these safe and refer to them when booking holidays.

Yours sincerely,

Freda Turner
Attendance officer

Term Dates 2016/2017

Summer Term

Half term: Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2017

Term ends: Friday 21st July 2017

Inset days: Friday 26th May & 21st July Children do not attend on these days

Term Dates 2017/2018

Autumn Term 2017

Term begins: Monday, 4 September 2017

Half term: Monday, 23 to Friday, 27 October 2017

Term ends: Thursday, 21 December 2017

Spring Term 2018

Term begins: Monday, 8 January 2018

Half term: Monday, 12 to Friday, 16 February 2018

Term ends: Friday, 23 March 2018

Summer Term 2018

Term begins: Monday, 9 April 2018

May Day: Monday, 7 May 2018

Half Term: Monday, 28 May to Friday, 1 June 2018

Term ends: Tuesday, 24 July 2018

There will be 5 inset days when children do not attend. You will be advised of these as soon as they are set.

