



The Flying Start Federation Parkham & Buckland Brewer Primary Schools

5.2.19

Dear Parents and Carers,

Requests for Holiday Absence

As we are regularly seeing requests for absence for holidays in term time, all of which we do not authorise, I would like to remind you of the legal consequence of doing so, all of which are clearly stated on the absence request form:-

“NOTES TO PARENTS/CARERS

The law does not grant parents/carers an automatic right to take their children out of school during term time. If the request is for an absence in term time you must have Parental Responsibility and be the parent/carer with whom the child normally lives. Permission must be sought in advance. If the circumstances relating to this request are considered exceptional and the absence is authorised by the school, the authorising of the absences will be conditional on the child(ren) attending satisfactory up to the date covered by this request.

Warning: If the school refuses your request and the child is still taken out of school, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. A significant amount (10 or more missed sessions) of unauthorised absence may make you liable to a Penalty Notice for each child, payable by each parent/carer, or the subject of court proceedings which could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a term of imprisonment of up to 3 months.

The law requires parents to ensure their children “receive an efficient full time education, and every minute of every day is important. Please help them not to miss any of this valuable time.”

(Extracts from the Absence request form which can be found on the Federation Website)

As we have seen an increase in the requests for term time absence for a family holiday or children just missing school because of a holiday we will now be informing Devon County Council so that they can review each circumstance and take any action necessary. It is not the school’s decision to issue penalty notices that is up to DCC.

Please continue to work with the school to provide a first class education for your child and plan family holidays in the 13 weeks set aside for the school holidays. As a Federation we have also taken action to group our Non- pupil days so that the Summer Term will finish a week earlier than usual.

Yours sincerely,

G. E. Finch.