



9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find attached confirmation of upcoming term dates as well as a West Berkshire Education Welfare team guide to school absences.

In June 2016, the Government set out their position on unauthorised school absence after a judgement made by the High Court in May 2016 regarding the case of the *Isle of Wight Council v Jon Platt*. Here are some significant extracts copied from his letter to schools in 2016:

*“As you will be aware there is clear evidence that absence from school is linked to lower levels of attainment. The Department's latest analysis published in March shows that every extra day missed was associated with lower attainment at age 11 and at age 16. In other words, every extra day of school that is missed can affect a pupil's chance of gaining good GCSE results.”*

*“...it remains the case ... that headteachers continue to have the power to authorise leave of absence, but only in exceptional circumstances. While family holidays are enriching experiences, the school year is designed to give families the opportunity for these breaks without having to disrupt their children's education.”*

The school will continue to follow the current guidance and procedures as stipulated by the Local Authority which is in line with Government policy above. It is important to note the following information set out in the West Berkshire guide:

*“The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 previously allowed headteachers 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. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 which comes in to effect on 1st September 2013 removes references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstance”*

As such details of unauthorised absences of 5 days or more during term time will be forwarded to the Local Authority and this may incur a fine. We have for your information included the Term dates for next academic year, 2018-19, in order that you can plan your holidays well in advance.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Governing Board of Streatley CofE Primary School.