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Dear Parent/Carer

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

From 1 September 2013, **the new law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time.** Warrington Borough Council's policy fully supports this approach. Any applications for leave of absence must be in exceptional circumstances and the Headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave. Parents can be fined via Warrington Borough Council's Attendance Service for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school and the absence would be 'unauthorised' on the student's record.

As a service, we fully appreciate the financial difficulties that some parents face when booking holidays. However, there is now an expectation that all schools introduce stringent checks to ensure that there is a significant reduction in the number of absences during term time. We would not wish our families to be issued with fines, but we have to abide by the legislation.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your full support in this matter by not taking your child out of school during term time.

This new legislation is intended to bring about increased attendance and improving standards in all schools.

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

Yours sincerely

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