

# St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton



February 2020

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

Dear Parents and Carers,

We work to encourage good attendance and we are pleased with our overall attendance this school year which is 96.7% from September to December 2019.

Good attendance is a significant factor in a child's overall school experience. If your child misses school during term time it may have a negative impact on learning and relationships. There are lots of chances to take holidays in the 14 weeks spread out in the school year when we are closed.

We are introducing penalty fines from February 2020 for any family taking holidays in term time. These holidays will not be authorised by me unless there are exceptional circumstances. Under the education related provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, Local Authorities, schools and the police have the duty to issue penalty fines to parents or carers of children who are absent from school for the purpose of family holidays during term time.

The fines will work like this: a referral will be made to the County Attendance Team to investigate the absence and a penalty notice will be issued. This is a fine of £60 per parent/carer for each child absent from school. For instance, a family with three children may incur a fine of £360. The payment of this penalty fine will prevent you being prosecuted for an offence under Section 144 of the 1966 Education Act.

I hope you see this move as proof of our commitment to promoting good attendance across the school.

We hope it won't be necessary to issue any penalty notices and we look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Best wishes,

Liz Burton