



Chesterton CE Primary School Learning in partnership
Alchester Road
Chesterton
BICESTER
Oxon OX26 1UN

Dear Parents and Carers

As a partnership we believe that attendance at school is the best way of making sure your child makes progress and does well at school. When children are absent they miss not only the teaching provided but are less well prepared for the lessons on their return. They miss important information for future lessons and this can impact on progress, attainment and self-esteem.

From September 2013 The Department for Education have made amendments to the regulations with regard to school attendance and Headteachers in all schools will **no longer be allowed to authorise leave of absence for any family holidays**. From September 2013 Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances and the number of days authorised for this would be determined by the Headteacher (DFE Guidance June 2013).

In summary, as from 1st September 2013

- Schools are no longer allowed to authorise leave of absence for family holidays.
- Any leave of absence requests can only be authorised by the Headteacher in exceptional circumstances.
- Headteachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if exceptional leave for the reasons shown above is granted.

Currently the Local Authority is reviewing their penalty notice arrangements. We will inform you of the arrangements as they become available to us, hopefully in the next few months.

I hope that this clarifies the new regulations which all schools must enforce from September 2013.

Yours sincerely

Victoria Woods
Headteacher

Member of BLIP (Bicester Learning in Partnership)