



HILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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Holidays during term time will NOT be authorised.

**Holidays booked during the school holidays must follow the Government guidelines.
This keeps our school community as safe as possible**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families remain safe and well.

I am sending this letter as a reminder that holidays during term time will not be authorised and parents may be issued with a fine if they choose to take their child on holiday.

I understand the temptation to book a holiday if it is safe to do so. However, we must also consider the time our children have already had away from school. Remote learning however good does not replace the learning experience in school. More time away from school in addition to the time taken during lockdown will negatively impact on a child's learning and they will be put at a disadvantage. We do not want our pupils sitting in class upset and worried and finding it difficult to complete their work because they have been on a holiday and missed lessons. There is much talk about catch up funding in the media but catching up will only work if students are present in school and actively engaged.

As a school we are constantly looking at the attainment gap between different groups of students.

Students with low attendance do not do as well as students who attend regularly. This puts them at a significant disadvantage in their learning and is likely to disadvantage them in their adult life.

On average, a student with an attendance of 90% is absent for half a day of school every week and over the course of a year this equates to four weeks of missed learning. National statistics show there is a link between student attendance and academic achievement. Our aim is to ensure each student is able to reach their full potential and we ask all parents/carers to work with us to achieve this aim. I know that many parents/carers already do.

The school monitors attendance to fulfill our requirements as outlined in law but also our moral responsibility to ensure all our children receive an excellent education. Education gives us access to choices and opportunities and this is what I wish for all our students. To be able to have choices in life: where to live, where to work and overall lifestyle. For many this is only attainable because of a good education.

Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child is educated. Parents can be prosecuted if they do not provide their child with an education. Low attendance may result in any of the following actions being taken by the school:

1. A meeting at the school to discuss your child's attendance;
2. The school refusing to authorise any further absences unless medical evidence or other supporting documentation is provided;
3. A referral to the Education Welfare Officer;
4. A Penalty Notice being issued for unauthorised absences;
5. A referral to the Local Authority for their consideration in relation to prosecuting you for the offence of failing to secure regular school attendance.

For those families who are keen to book a holiday please find attached an amendment to the holiday dates for 2021/2022. These amendments are due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee when we gain an extra holiday. We have extended the summer half-term and hope that this may give some families an opportunity to have a holiday at a less busy and expensive time of the year.

Thank-you for your continued support at what continues to be a difficult time. Recently there has been an increase in COVID cases in Hillingdon Local Authority. This rise is greater than other parts of the country. Parents/carers may have received a leaflet over the weekend explaining what we need to do to continue to protect ourselves. The school continues to have in place mitigating measures to protect against COVID. Please make sure you continue to follow the one way system and wear a mask while on the school premises.

Take care,



Ann Bowen-Breslin
Headteacher

REMINDER: Children are in school on Friday 28th May. Half term starts on Monday 31st May for one week. There are teacher training days on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th June. Students do not attend school on training days. Students return to school on Wednesday 9th June.