



Aughton Christ Church C. E. Primary School
Long Lane
Aughton
L39 5AS

Headteacher: Mr D Kennedy

Tel: 01694 421391

Dear Parents,

As you may be aware, the Government has amended key legislation relating to attendance from September 2013. Our new policy will be available on the school website from next Wednesday. National and Local Government are expecting all schools to take a firmer stance on unnecessary absence and to dispel the myth held by many parents that there is an entitlement to time off school for holidays during term time.

As of September 1st 2013 Headteachers cannot authorise any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. Historically, overall attendance at Aughton Christ Church School has been very good, but there has been a growth in the number of requests for leave in term time for the purpose of holidays. I do understand and appreciate the value of family holidays and know that costs are inflated over school holiday periods. Due to these factors there has been significant consultation with headteachers of other local schools i.e. Aughton Town Green Primary School, Aughton St. Michael's School, Asmall School, Ormskirk C. E. School and Ormskirk High School to ensure that our policies are consistent.

I will not be able to authorise any requests for leave in term time unless it is deemed to be **exceptional**. Every request will be looked at individually but the following points will give you an idea of the type of information Headteachers must consider before approving the request as exceptional: -

- The timing of the request e.g. when a pupil is just starting the school, or new class start to the school year in September. Absences should be avoided as this is a very important transition period as your child needs to settle into their new environment as quickly as possible
- Pupils should not be absent both immediately before and during assessment periods e.g. SATs
- When a pupil's attendance record already includes any level of unauthorised absence
- Where a pupil's attendance rate is already below 96% or will fall to that level as a result of taking leave.
- Other periods of leave which the pupil may have had, either during the current or previous academic year.

I hope that all parents will acknowledge and understand the limitations placed on schools in granting any leave during term time and the lengths we have gone to in ensuring consistency with our neighbouring schools. Therefore we really need parents to support the school in our efforts to reduce unnecessary absence and minimise the impact on the education of all our pupils.

Yours sincerely,

D Kennedy
HEADTEACHER