



## HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

From 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2013 a new law came into force which removed the authority for a Headteacher to authorise holidays in term time. DfE guidance states: 'The amendments make it clear that Headteachers may not grant any Leave of Absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Headteachers should determine the number of days a child can be away from school if the Leave of Absence is granted'.

The new law prohibits school from granting any Leave of Absence unless:

- a. the application has been made in advance to the school by a parent with whom the child normally resides, and
- b. the school considers the Leave of Absence should be granted due to the exceptional circumstances relating to that application.

Where possible leave of absence applications should be made, at least, in the term prior to the date/s requested.

Each request will be judged individually taking into consideration:

- the nature of the 'exceptional circumstance'
- whether the date/s requested are close to any exam dates;
- your child's overall attendance record for the current, and the previous academic year.

In summary, school no longer has the discretion to grant any holidays during term time and our actions will be monitored by the Local Authority Education Welfare Officer and judged by OFSTED.