

15<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parent/Guardians

Attendance and Avoidable Absences in Term Time - Academic Year 2022/23

The reason why attendance is so important to us at Newtown Primary School is because it has a huge impact both socially and academically. We know that good attendance really makes a positive difference. This letter is being sent to all parents/carers of children attending Newtown Primary School to remind you of the policy in relation to school attendance. This letter is not a concern about any particular child's attendance.

We firmly believe that in order for a pupil to fully benefit from their education, good attendance is crucial. It is the policy of our school to celebrate achievement and full attendance is a critical factor in achieving a productive and successful school career.

The changes in education regulations reinforced the Government's view that every minute of every school day is vital and that pupils should only be granted authorised absences by the school in 'exceptional circumstances' and this can be applied for using the S2 form available from the school. As an example, a family holiday is not normally considered by the Government to be an 'exceptional circumstance' and, therefore, will not be authorised by the school. Schools are required to notify the Local Authority if a pupil has a number of unauthorised absences. The school meets with the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) on a regular basis to discuss individual school attendance and any unauthorised absences.

Should a Penalty Notice be issued as a result of unauthorised absence then one notice will be issued to each parent/guardian for each child involved. Currently, each Penalty Notice is £60, if paid within the first 21 days of issue, increasing to £120 if paid after 21 days and before 28 days. If a Penalty Notice goes unpaid after 28 days, then court proceedings will be initiated.

We understand the disappointment that the refusal of any leave request may cause, but as I'm sure you can appreciate, this policy represents the school's responsibility and commitment to maximising your child's opportunities to succeed in their education. We hope you will continue to support your child's education by ensuring that your son/daughter obtains the maximum benefit from their time at school by attending punctually and for the required number of school days each year that the law requires (unless of course your child is prevented from doing so by an unavoidable circumstance or illness). Please take the time to review the Attendance Policy and if you should have any questions, please contact our attendance officer on 01392 255540 or [admin@newtown.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@newtown.devon.sch.uk)

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.



Miss Kim Wills  
Acting Headteacher