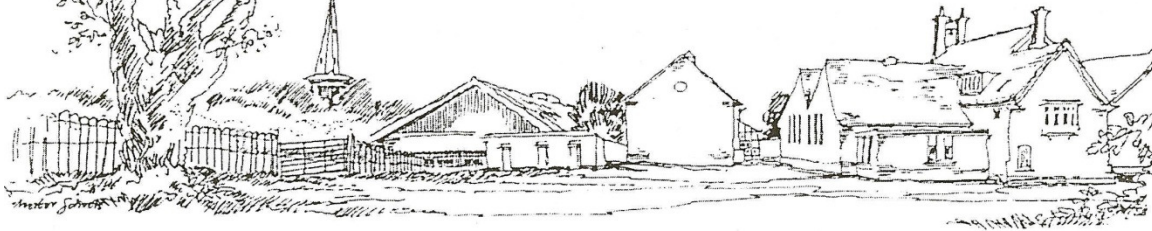


IRCHESTER COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL LANE, IRCHESTER, NORTHANTS, NN29 7AZ

TELEPHONE: 01933 353848 FAX: 01933 350479



Headteacher: Mrs Julia Alison B.Ed., M.A.

**email: head@irchester.northants-ecl.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.irchester.northants.sch.uk>**

18th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to everyone and especially any new children this year. I hope the first couple of weeks of learning have been fun and exciting!

As always, I wish to remind everyone about the importance of good attendance and about the rule around taking children out of school in term time for holidays. If your child is ill, please ring in each morning that they are ill stating the reason for their absence. Any absences for which no reason is given is recorded as unauthorised.

Maintaining good attendance is crucial to achieving maximum potential. If a child has **90%** attendance and maintains this level of their school lifetime they will have **missed a whole year** of schooling.

From 1st September 2013, **the new law gives NO entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time.** Any application for leave must be in exceptional circumstances only and the Head teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional and warrant the granting of leave. **Head teachers would not be expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional.**

Parents can and have been fined by the Local Authority for taking their child on holiday during term time without the consent of the school ie: **A Fixed penalty Notice of £60.00 would be issued to each parent for each child: ie (two parent family, two children = £240.00 and the following would apply: £60.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120.00 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt).**

If the penalty has not been paid within 28 days of issue the Local Authority may instigate legal proceedings under section 444 (1) of the Education Act 1996. **If found guilty of an offence under this Act, parents will receive a criminal record and could be fined up to £1000.**

We realise that the vast majority of parents do not take family holidays in term time; however we noticed a large increase last year at this time of year, so feel it only fair we remind parents of the potential risks involved.

As a school, we support the government's stance on trying to reduce the amount of school missed due to holidays and we hope that you will continue to support your child's education by not planning a family holiday during term time.

Yours sincerely

**Julie Lea
Chair of Governors**

