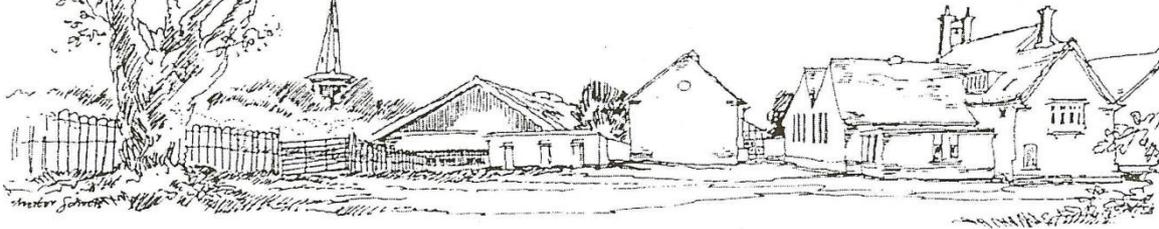


IRCHESTER COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL LANE, IRCHESTER, NORTHANTS, NN29 7AZ

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

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26th November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

I wish to remind everyone about the importance of good attendance and arriving at school on time; ensuring children receive the maximum benefits from their education. I also need to reiterate the rules surrounding taking children out of school in term time. If your child is ill, **please make sure you call in every morning** of their absence stating that they are ill and the nature of their illness. Any absences for which no reasons are given will always be recorded as unauthorised.

Maintaining good attendance is a life skill that will benefit children into adulthood, but it is also crucial to ensuring that children are able to achieve their potential in school. If a child has **90%** attendance and maintains this level throughout their school lifetime, they will have **missed a whole year of schooling**.

From 1st September 2013, **the 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 granting the leave. **Head Teachers are NOT expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional.**

Many parents can and have received Fixed Penalty Notices from the Local Authority for taking their child on holiday in term time. **A fixed penalty notice of £60 can be issued to each parent for each child: i.e. (two parents family, two children = £240 and the following would apply: £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 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 notice families still do, so feel it is only fair to remind parents and carers 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, arriving at school on time, and informing the school each morning if your child is ill.

Yours sincerely

Julie Lea
Chair of Governors

