

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn 3, 2019

## Holidays during Term Time

Issues over holiday absence not being approved are a cause of friction between school and parents. It regularly puts schools in a difficult position but please understand that we have to follow the structures to ensure fairness and consistency. We are required to ensure good attendance.

Please be aware that Derbyshire County Council will consider a fixed penalty notice for any period of holiday absence that has not been authorised by the school.

The school has an agreed School Attendance Policy available on the website and we would urge all parents looking towards requesting term time absence to seek this out first.

The basis of the new policy is that any requested for absence in school term time will only be approved in circumstances that are regarded as 'exceptional' and each one will be looked at individually. Where the absence is not approved and the holiday is still taken then this will be forwarded to Derbyshire County Council for consideration of a fixed penalty notice. Current high levels of attendance are no longer a factor. This is the same for all schools.

Recently, we have had a number of requests for leave of absence that we are unable to approve. In addition, we've had families taking short break holidays and not informing us. Please be aware that in such cases we will follow the Attendance Policy and that this may lead to a substantial fine.

## Attendance

We will be shortly writing to parents whose children's attendance last year was low (approaching 90%) or was regarded as a Persistent Absentee (below 90%) by the government definition. This is simply a reminder letter at this point to be aware of their child's attendance and the significant impact low attendance has upon a pupil's development. It is interesting to hear the number of new staff who comment on the pace of learning now expected of children and the impact that absence can have.

## Harvest Festival, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Due to an ever increasing number of pupils the services at church have become extremely busy. It is lovely to see so many parents and pupils involved, however when we looked at numbers this year it is clear we are going to need a different approach. We are going to trial having two services, one in the morning (inc morning nursery pupils) and one in the afternoon (inc afternoon nursery pupils). We would please ask that you limit your attendance to one of these services so that we can ensure everyone gets a chance to come. We would also request that pushchairs are left outside the church as these limit the spaces available. The church will open 30 minutes before the services.

If anyone is able to donate any non-perishable food items for the Harvest food bank, please kindly let the school office have these before Friday, or take directly to St Mary's church.

Morning Service: 10:30am

Afternoon Service: 1:30pm

## School App

Just a reminder to download the School App. This is called School Jotter and once downloaded then select our school. We will be switching from the texting service to full use of the app very soon.

You can download it from Google Play Store (Android users) - <https://bit.ly/2GRP3U>

Or, via the Apple App Store (iOS users) - <https://apple.co/2oGDD64>

Users need to choose our school from the list, and then it will automatically show up each time the app is opened. The web links have also been sent out to all parents via the school text service.

## Dates for 2019/ 2020

8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019	Harvest rehearsal
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019	Choir at Tupton Hall
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019	Y3/4, 4 & 5 visit to the Space Centre
11 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019	Harvest – a morning and afternoon service.
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019	Choir at the Winding Wheel
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019	Y1 class visit to Hardwick Park
18 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019	Y6 Bikeability
21 <sup>st</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Parent Consultations
22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2019	Y6 visit to National Galleries of Justice
26 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 2019	October Half Term
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual and Family Photographs
9 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2019	KS2 Christmas rehearsal
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2019	KS2 Christmas Performances 1.30pm & 6pm
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2019	School Health Flu immunisations (Rec to Y6)
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2019	KS1 Christmas Performances 10.30am & 1.30pm
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2019	EYFS Christmas Performances 10.30am & 1.30pm
21 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2019 - 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2020	Christmas holidays
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2020	Back to school
16 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2020	Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service Education Visit Y2 & Y6
11 <sup>th</sup> March	INSET Day – school closed, school staff attending other schools
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Y1 visit to Hardwick Park
4 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	East Holidays
20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Back to school
8 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	BANK HOLIDAY (note changed date – school open on 4 <sup>th</sup> May)
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2020	May Half Term
3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2020	Y1 day visit to Lea Green
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Y2 Residential to Lea Green
8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Y6 Residential to Dukes Barn
17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Last day of term for summer holidays
20 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	INSET DAY
21 <sup>st</sup> July 2020	INSET DAY