



TENACRES FIRST SCHOOL

Quibury Close, Winyates East

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Ref: JLB/EWO

Dear Parent/Carer

School Attendance & Family Holidays during Term Time

As you know, pupils of school age must, by law, attend school regularly. A high level of attendance at school is essential if they are to benefit fully from the education provided for them. Research conducted both nationally and locally has shown there are clear links between high levels of attendance and high levels of achievement.

One of the main reasons for absence from school has been family holidays taken during term time. Regulation 7(4) of the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006 made it clear that parents did not have any right of entitlement to take a child out of school for the purposes of a term-time holiday. Head Teachers could, in certain exceptional circumstances, grant up to 10 school days leave in a school year.

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 have been amended and references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of 10 school days has been removed. **The changes make it clear that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there is an exceptional circumstance.** It is the decision of the Head Teacher as to what might be considered an exceptional circumstance and parents should not expect their request to be granted as a right.

The amendments come into force on the 1st September, 2013. Should you believe it is necessary to take your child out of school during term time because of an exceptional circumstance you must make your application in writing to the Head Teacher no less than 4 weeks before the start of the leave. We will respond back to you in writing and you may be asked into school to discuss the request in more detail.

If a holiday is taken without permission or the child fails to return by the agreed date, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and you face the risk of being fined either by Penalty Notice or legal proceedings under the Education Act, 1996 section 444.

Yours faithfully

Tenacres First School Governing Body

