



Kentisbeare C of E Primary School
Kentisbeare
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If you are not on the internet and wish to receive a copy of the weekly newsletter please contact the school office to request a paper version which will be sent home with your child.

Parent Governor Results

Thank you to the Parents who all voted for the Parent Governors. The votes were very, very close and we would like to say Congratulations! to Dr Hallmark, Mrs Hollister & Mr Sullivan, who are now the new Parent Governors.

Water Bottles

Reminder – All children should have a water bottle in school each day. We have had quite a few children coming to the office to see if they are able to borrow them, unfortunately we are not able to lend them out. Water bottles are available to buy in the school office at £1.50 each.

Blue Class Swimming

Please note that the week after half term Blue Class will be swimming on Tuesday 23rd February instead of Thursday 25th February, this is because we are unable to use the pool.

Culm Valley Learning Community

Over the February half term the Culm Valley Learning Community are running a great list of holiday clubs which includes:- Exeter City Football Club, Popstars Academy, Forestry Day, Break Dance and many more. If you are interested in booking your child into any of these wonderful events please ask in the School Office for a copy of the clubs and booking forms (All bookings will need to go direct to Lisa Batten at Cullompton Community College).

Holiday Request Forms

Please could we just take the opportunity to remind parents that any absences from school during term time must be authorised by the Headteacher **in advance**. The Headteacher will also look into the pupils attendance and take this into consideration. The decision will be at the Headteacher's discretion. An absence request form must be completed and authorised before the trip takes place. Please find below a copy of the reverse of the holiday request form 'the facts and the law', which clearly states absences for which the Headteacher is NOT allowed to authorise. It is essential that the 'reason for request during term-time' is fully explained in the space provided.

THE FACTS	THE LAW
<p>We recognise that it is often expensive to take a holiday during school breaks and that is why some parents may ask for term-time leave for their child. However, it is important that parents carefully consider the implications of taking their child out of school during term time.</p> <p>Research suggests that children who are taken out of school may never catch up on the course work they have missed. This may affect test results and can be particularly harmful if the child is studying for final year examinations.</p> <p>Children who struggle with English or Mathematics may also find it even harder to cope when they return to school, while younger children may find it difficult to renew friendships with their classmates.</p> <p>WHAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER</p> <p>There are times during a school year when a child may experience particular problems because of term-time leave such as:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closeness to exams or tests. [Standard Attainment Tests in year two, six and nine.] • During GCSE, and other examination courses. • During the first year at a new school. • At the beginning of a new school term. <p>If the school refuses a request for term-time leave and the child is still taken out of school, this will be recorded as unauthorised absence and you may receive a £50* fine per parent for each child.</p>	<p>The law does not say that parents have an automatic right to take their child out of school for holidays during term-time.</p> <p>However, in exceptional circumstances school may authorise, in advance, requests for periods of leave of no more than ten days in total in any year. The request for leave must come from a parent with whom the child normally resides, and must be for the purpose of a family holiday.</p> <p>If a child then stays away from school for more than the authorised period this must be recorded as unauthorised absence and could be quoted in a prosecution for poor attendance.</p> <p>If the child is away from school for a total of four weeks or more, the school may have to take the child off roll unless there is a good reason for the continued absence, such as illness. In these circumstances it is up to the parent to inform the school as once removed from roll, there is no guarantee that the child will regain a place at the school.</p> <p>Advice from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in March 2008 states that schools can only approve absence for family holidays if they consider there are special circumstances. Holiday prices, and the fact that the parents have booked a holiday before checking with the school, are not special reasons.</p>

<p>Other absence from school will be authorised if it is for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Genuine illness ▪ Unavoidable medical / dental appointments (but try to make these after school if at all possible) ▪ Days of religious observance ▪ Exceptional circumstances, such as bereavement ▪ Seeing a parent who is on leave from the armed forces ▪ External examinations ▪ When Traveller children go on the road with their parents 	<p>Other absence from school will not be authorised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For any type of shopping ▪ Looking after brothers, sisters or unwell parents ▪ Minding the house ▪ Birthdays ▪ Resting after a late night ▪ Relatives visiting or visiting relatives
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Please contact your child's head teacher if you wish to discuss this issue.

The law requires schools to be open to pupils for 190 days each year, and every day is important. Please help them not to miss any of this valuable time.

We hope that when you have read this leaflet you will consider that your child's education is too important to take holidays during term time.

*Penalty Notice £50 if paid within 28 days, increasing to £100 if paid after 28 days and before 42 days.

Revised November 2009