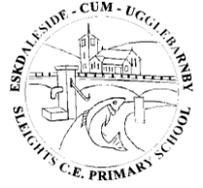


**Sleights Church of England (VC) Primary School
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"Helping each child flourish"

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Headteacher: Scott Grason

7th September 2017

Dear families,

As you will have heard in the news, there have been many recent developments and changes regarding holidays in term time. A decision made by the Supreme Court in April 2017 concluded **that parents may not take their child, or children, out of school for family holidays during term time.** This has been the case for some time.

Whilst Sleights staff and governors fully recognise and appreciate the cost of a holiday during term time can be much cheaper, the impact that this time missed from school can have on learning is significant.

Holiday absence impacts on teaching and learning and disrupts both the individual child's education and the rest of the class. Even short periods of absence can lead to gaps in learning. Taking a day here and there off school can lead to children falling behind with work, which may then lead to a dip in confidence. The teaching staff will always do their best to make sure a child catches up with the work that they may miss, but, inevitably, this is not always possible.

May we take this opportunity to remind families that absence from school must be discussed and placed in writing first. Application for Leave of Absence forms are in the office and any request **must** be recorded on these. Whilst in many cases holidays in term time will be considered **unauthorised** leave, we do also appreciate that some time away from school could be for exceptional circumstances. Please discuss these with Mr Grason first if you think this could be the case.

For any holidays where a child is absent for five days (ten sessions) or more will trigger a penalty notice request to be made to the Local Authority. This is in line with North Yorkshire County Council and the Government guidelines. A penalty notice of £60 per child is payable within the first 21 days and rises to £120 thereafter. The Local Authority will consider taking legal action if the penalty notice is not paid within 28 days of issue.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the information in this letter, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Scott Grason
Headteacher

Gemma Kellerman
Chair of Governors