



Tuesday 17th September

RE: Holidays in Term Time

Dear Parents/Guardians

I sincerely hope that you have had a wonderful summer break and that your child has made a positive start to this new academic year.

I am conscious that a number of parents may already be starting to think about booking a holiday at some point over these next 12 months and therefore I felt it prudent to write to you all at this stage of the year, to encourage you to avoid booking a holiday for your family during term time.

Although I am well aware that holiday companies often do not help matters through their practice of heavily inflating their prices during school holidays, from a school point of view, we have no other choice but to be consistent in not granting authorisation for holidays in term time. The main reason behind this is that we genuinely believe that days missed from school interrupt a pupil's learning and progress. Additionally, days off school can often result in teachers having to consolidate prior learning rather than covering new material. Keeping student absence of any kind to an absolute minimum really is a major factor in helping us as a school continue to raise standards of pupil outcomes.

I take no pleasure at all in creating any animosity between parents and the school, however it is important to note that, at St John's, we are required by KCC to pass on the names of any pupil who has had five days or more of unauthorised absence; this practice can often lead to a fine. We will be continuing to do this throughout the year ahead on the rare occasions where parents insist on taking their child out of school for prolonged periods of time without prior authorisation.

Finally, I just wanted to draw your attention to the rather troubling practice of a small minority of pupils who miss the last day, or last few days of a term for no justified reason. It has long been the case at St John's that staff plan and deliver engaging lessons, ones that are key to the continued progress of students, right up to and including the last day of every term. I would greatly appreciate therefore, your support in ensuring that your child attends these days too. For your ease you will find this year's term dates on the back of this letter.

Please note that Mr Rowlinson and the attendance team will be extremely proactive throughout the year ahead in promoting the importance of both attendance and punctuality with our student body. I know that they, like me, would greatly appreciate it if, through your role as a parent/guardian, you could reiterate this message with your child.

Many thanks in advance for your support with the matters outlined in this letter and I really do hope that the year ahead is a truly positive one for your child.

Yours sincerely

Matt Barron
Headteacher

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Term Dates 2019/2020

2nd & 3rd September
Staff Development Days

Term 1

4th September - 18th October

Half term

19th October - 3rd November

Term 2

4th November - 20th December

Christmas Holiday

21st December - 5th January

Term 3

6th January - 14th February

Half term

15th - 23rd February

Term 4

24th February - 3rd April

Easter Holiday

4th - 19th April

Term 5

20th April to 22nd May

Half term

23rd - 31st May

Term 6

1st June - 22nd July

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If you do have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of our attendance team.

Attendance Team – Contact Details

Mr Rowlinson – email: arowlinson721@stj.kent.sch.uk
(Assistant Headteacher)

Mrs Abbott – email: jabbott173@stj.kent.sch.uk
(Attendance Officer)

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St. John's Catholic
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