

DR WALKER'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Walker Avenue  
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Headteacher: Mrs W Myers BA, NPQH

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is becoming increasingly difficult with the new curriculum expectations for children to catch up what they have missed during their time off and this does become a problem as gaps in knowledge begin to impact on their learning.

This is reflected in many schools across the country and so new government legislation has been brought in as of September 2013 that schools must abide by. You may have seen the recent news reports discussing this new legislation. Please see the quotation below that comes from this document.

*'The current law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child out of school during term time. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 prohibits Headteachers granting leave of absence to a pupil except where an application has been made in advance and the Headteacher considers that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.'*

*'If a child is taken out of school for this time, the absences will not be authorised and the Education Welfare Service may issue a penalty notice to each parent of £60 for each child to be paid within 21 days. If the penalty is not paid within the time scale the penalty will increase to £120. If the higher penalty is not paid within 28 days, the Education Welfare Service will then institute legal proceedings against you in the magistrate's court under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 for failing to ensure your child attends school regularly.'*

If for any reason you do feel you have an exceptional circumstance to support your request for leave during term time then please state the reason in a letter and send written evidence to back your request - eg. letter on headed notepaper from your employer.

Whilst we do appreciate the importance of family holidays and some of the difficulties that parents may have in taking them in school holidays we are as a school bound by the regulations.

Yours sincerely,

*W. Myers*

pp Mrs Josanne Balcombe  
Chair of Governors



Healthy School