



Dear Parents and Carers,

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 allowed Headteachers to grant leave of absence for the purpose of a family holiday during term time in “special circumstances” of up to ten school days leave per year. Headteachers could also grant extended leave for more than ten school days in exceptional circumstances. From 1st September 2013, these regulations have now been amended and a new legal position established for this coming academic year.

All references to family holidays and extended leave, as well as the previous statutory threshold of ten school days have now been removed from the regulations. The amendments make clear that **Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**

The Government is determined to prevent families from taking their children on holiday during term time and is making Headteachers accountable for this.

At Flich Green we continue to have a small but significant number of families who make applications for their children to miss school so that family holidays can be taken. The reasons families given typically fall into three categories. Sometimes families are forced into a holiday during term time because the employer of one of the parents / carers will not allow a holiday during the school break. On fewer occasions, holidays are requested as a result of exceptional family events that could be viewed as ‘one-off’ events. However, the most common reason for families taking holidays during term time are the cost of holidays being so much greater during school breaks.

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Under the new regulations, it is hard to see how I could authorise a holiday because it is cheaper during term time. It is less clear as to whether issues created by a parental employer could be regarded as exceptional and my current view is that these will need to be looked at on a case by case basis.

I would ask that families give even greater consideration to any requests you may make to take family holidays during term time, ensuring that you do so only under exceptional circumstances as under the new regulations you could be fined if you remove your children from school for more routine holiday provision.

Please find attached to this e-mail the Leave of Absence Request that must be completed in advance of a holiday being booked. All holidays booked prior to a request being submitted will be marked as Unauthorised.

As always, downloadable copies of this letter and the Leave of Absence Form can be found on the academy website.

Yours faithfully

Alex Burden  
Principal