



St. Mary's Church of England VC Infant School

'Sharing, caring, learning and loving with God'

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Headteacher: Mrs Claire Gunn BA (Ed)

Deputy Head: Mrs Bev Waldwyn B.Ed

Dear Parents and Carers,

20th May 2019

At our last governors' meeting we approved the existing attendance policy drawn up by Mrs Gunn and her senior leadership team.

It is an important matter. In the case of illness and to help you and your child understand the recommended period to be kept away from school, a guidance note is attached to this letter which I hope will help you to understand what is required.

Governors are concerned about the incidence of other absences. It seems more of you are taking short breaks which involve taking your child out of school during term time.

The second attachment shows the impact of poor attendance on your child's education and future success. One of the worrying aspects is the impact it has on your child's friendships. Being away from school may set them aside from their friends as they have been out of the loop - even for a day- and missing out on experiences whether these are in the classroom or outside where learning continues in play and sporting activities.

Our teachers are conscious the absences may cause your child to lose confidence and with the best will in the world they are unable to replicate the learning experiences gained in school when your child has returned. Setting work for your child to complete on holiday is not the same thing and would be an additional work load on our teachers.

I am afraid our absenteeism is above that of other similar schools. The guidance sent to you should help. Children do need to be off school when they are too unwell to attend and we do not want to add to these days missed by adding holidays to this number.

Our concerns for your children are genuine and so in future please do all you can to avoid unnecessary absences and so improve their attendance in school.

Obviously if there is anything you would like to talk to me about, then I can be contacted through the School Office.

Thanking you for your support.

Andrew Watkin
Chair of Governors.