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6th June 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

Holidays and Absences from School

With the approach of the holiday season the media has again spotlighted the contentious issue of children taken out of school during term-time in order to take advantage of cheaper holidays. As you will know, all such absences need to have prior authorisation from the Head Teacher and, under current legislation, may incur a financial penalty.

Governors appreciate that family holidays can be costly, especially if taken at the peak of the holiday season; and that, even after paying the ~~fine~~ for taking a child out of school during term-time, holidays during the school term can result in significant savings. We also appreciate that some holidays, but of course not all, may well have a degree of beneficial educational value. We therefore sympathise entirely with the dilemma that you face!

Many an adult has come to the regretful realisation that opportunities that might have been theirs were lost as a result of a less than 100% focus on their schooling and studies at an earlier stage! Whenever a child misses even a short period at school there will inevitably be something of a gap in their learning that may never be recoverable and that will therefore disadvantage them both at the time of their return to school and potentially in later life.

May I please therefore urge you to weigh very carefully any decision to take a child out of school for whatever reason during term-time and only to do this as a very last resort. In this way your child will benefit as fully as possible from the fine learning opportunities that the staff and governors are fully committed to provide for every child at the school.

With kind regards,

Neil Milmine

Chair of Governors,
On behalf of the Governing Body

Learning Together, Believing Together

East Sussex County Council

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