



'Absence in Term time'

February 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to **all** parents and carers of pupils at **Birkby Infant and Nursery School** to remind you of the importance of regular school attendance.

Over the last school year there have been a number of parents who have taken their children out of school for a '**Leave of Absence**' during term time. Whilst time with family is valuable a child's right to a full time education must take priority. It is now well recognised that children with good attendance will achieve better at school.

We feel sure that you want your child(ren) to do well at school. Taking time away from school in term time means that children miss important school time - both educationally and for other school activities. It is very difficult for them to catch up on work later on.

Research has shown that many young children score very poorly in Maths and English when they have been absent for a period of 15 days (3 weeks) in a year, as they find it very difficult to catch up on the learning they have missed.

Parents do not have a legal right to take their children out of school for any reason; you should not expect your child's school to agree to any 'leave of absence' in term time.

Taking your child out of school, without permission, may result in a Penalty Notice being issued or your child losing their place at Birkby Infant and Nursery School.

We are committed to working in partnership with children and families to provide the best education possible for your child. We are counting on your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Diana Wilson
Head Teacher

