

# Barrs Court Primary School



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Headteacher: **Daniel Webster**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we move into the summer term, we are seeing a significant rise in term time holidays forms. While we understand the appeal of taking holidays during term time due to various factors such as reduced costs and less crowded destinations, it is crucial to consider the impact such absences can have on your child's learning. Regular attendance is not only a key predictor of academic success but also essential for the social and emotional development of children.

When children are absent from school during term time, they miss lessons and educational activities that are often built upon in subsequent classes. This absence can lead to significant gaps in learning, making it challenging for children to catch up. Sometimes, when a child returns from a holiday, it can take several days for them to settle back into school life because they don't understand where the current learning fits in. Supporting children to catch up on the learning missed is extremely difficult for school staff, and sometimes concepts or topics are not revisited for another year. Taking a holiday at the beginning or in the middle of a term will always have the biggest impact on a child's progress.

Regular attendance helps children develop strong relationships with their peers and teachers. Absences may cause students to feel disconnected, potentially impacting their confidence and ability to integrate socially within the school environment.

It is also important to remind you that under current regulations, parents are legally obligated to ensure their children attend school regularly. The school can only grant leave during term time in exceptional circumstances, and these must be formally requested in advance. Unauthorised absences could lead to legal penalties, including fines.

Planning your holidays during school breaks supports us to provide the best possible education for your child. We do appreciate the strains on budgets and the need in exceptional circumstances to book a holiday in term time, but please consider the impact before booking.

Thank you for your continued support. Please feel free to contact me directly.

Warm regards,

Daniel Webster , Headteacher, Barrs Court Primary School



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