STALBRIDGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Headteacher: Mr Michael Allen.

20th June 2013

Dear Parents,

Term Time Holidays

At present the governing body and I are allowed to grant leave of absence for the purpose of a family holiday during term time in "special circumstances" of up to ten days leave per year. This is then reported as an authorised absence.

This was set out in The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006.

Amendments to these regulations state that headteachers now **may not** grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are "**exceptional** circumstances".

From September 2013 onwards the governing body and I will not grant authorised absence for family holiday. If family holidays are taken during term time you need to inform us in advance and they will be reported as unauthorised.

Other planned absence from school ie medical or any absence you consider to an exceptional circumstance must be requested in advance through email or letter to the school office. A proforma will be available to download from our website.

Absence due to illness should be reported on the day, before 10am, to the school office.

This removal of our ability to authorise family holiday for up to ten days may not sit comfortably with many of you – we are sorry for this – we must follow the new regulations and uphold the law. Dorset County Council has issued the following notice to parents regarding the amendments to the regulations (2006):

Dorset County Council Children's Services Directorate, fully supports schools in expecting parents and carers to make sure that children and young people attend school on a regular basis. Any time away from school can have a significant impact on educational attainment, success in later life and longer term health and well being.

Dorset County Council will be supporting all schools in ensuring the law is upheld. In law parents and carers are committing an offence if they fail to ensure the regular and punctual attendance at school. Therefore any unauthorised absence, such as taking holidays in term time, can result in a Fixed Term Penalty Notice. Failure to pay a Fixed Term Penalty Notice may result in a criminal conviction and a fine in the Magistrates Court of up to £1000.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Allen
Headteacher

Mr K Allen
Chair of Governors