

Julia Hassall  
*Director*Education Social Welfare  
Professional Excellence Centre  
Acre Lane  
Bromborough  
Wirral CH62 7BZTelephone: 0151 346 6605  
Fax: 0151 346 6575  
Email: [children@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:children@wirral.gov.uk)

All Parents/Carers

Date: June 2013

my ref:MC/AllParents/Holidays/June 2013  
please ask for: Mike Clarke  
tel ext: 0151 346 6605

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE: Family Holidays taken in School Term Time**

The Department of Education has recently announced important changes to legislation in relation to family holidays taken in term time which will come into force from 1 September 2013. Previously Head Teachers have had the discretion to grant up to ten days holiday in term time but from 1 September 2013 this will change. Amendments to [Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#) make clear that Head Teachers may only grant leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. Further details can be found on the Department of Education website at [www.education.gov.uk/a00223868/regulations-amendments](http://www.education.gov.uk/a00223868/regulations-amendments)

Although holidays can be of great benefit to children and families and tend to be significantly cheaper in term time, taking a child out of school can impair their progress and development. Parents who remove their children from school in term time may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice. From 1 September 2013 these will be for £60 per parent per child if paid within 21 days and £120 per parent per child if paid between 22 and 28 days. Parents who fail to pay Fixed Penalty Notices may be prosecuted in court.

We hope the impact of these changes will be improved school attendance and less children being taken out of school in term time and that this will benefit children and their progress. Parents who have already agreed holidays in the autumn term should contact school's Head Teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Clarke

**Mike Clarke,  
Education Social Welfare Service**