



Thameside Primary School

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Headteacher: Laura Youngman

"Every Child Every Chance Every Day"

Thursday 9th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Thameside School is committed to ensuring that your child receives the best possible education to prepare them for the next stage of their life. Each school day is carefully planned, and each lesson informs a wider programme of learning. Therefore, every lesson really does count in your child's education. Every child is a valued member of our school community and every day missed is a day lost without them.

I am also writing to you to ensure that you, and all our parents and carers, are aware of action that may be taken for Unauthorised Holiday in term time during the academic year when a request for leave due to exceptional circumstances is declined.

It is the policy of the Vale Academy Trust not to authorise absence for holidays during term-time. While advance permission can be given in exceptional circumstances, this is rare and can only be granted by me in my capacity as Headteacher. Any such request should be addressed to me in writing before the holiday is taken and you should not assume that permission will be granted. If a term-time holiday is taken without permission, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and a referral may be made to the County Attendance Team. This may result in the issue of an Education Penalty Notice under section 444A Education Act 1996 in respect of each absent child, to each parent/carer. The current penalty is £60 per parent per child, rising to £120 per parent per child if not paid within 21 days.

Penalty notices are intended as an alternative to prosecution. If the penalty is not paid in full within 28 days, the usual consequence is a Magistrates' Court prosecution for the underlying section 444(1) Education Act 1996 offence of failure to secure regular school attendance. If further instances of unauthorised absence occur despite a penalty notice having previously been issued, or if the child's attendance is a wider matter of concern, the local authority may consider prosecution in any event.

Further information about our trust attendance policy and procedures, as well as support that we can offer to families, can be found on our school website.

Yours faithfully

Laura Youngman

Headteacher