



# Alverstone Church of England Junior School

Head Teacher: Mr Graham Cutter B.A.(Hons.)  
Deputy Head Teacher: Miss Marissa Ballard B.A.(Hons.)  
Business Manager: Mrs Julie O'Brien

8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents,

As you will be aware, in September 2013, the Department for Education removed the headteacher's discretion to approve 'holiday' absences, making it clear that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term-time unless 'exceptional circumstances' prevail. The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional circumstances' are that they are 'rare, significant, unavoidable and short.

During the recent legal case of, Isle of Wight v Platt, the school took the decision not to issue penalty charges for absences until a ruling had taken place. On 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 the Supreme Court unanimously ruled against Jon Platt and agreed that it is for schools to decide which circumstances are exceptional. Hampshire County Council's Code of Conduct for issuing penalty notices will therefore be re-enforced by the school from September 2017.

Our attendance policy contains detailed information on absence, including the penalty notice system, and I would recommend reading this if you are ever considering a request for authorised absence.

From September we will also be issuing an attendance summary for your child at the end of each term. This will give you information on your child's attendance rate for the academic year to date.

We would very much appreciate your support in working with us to avoid situations where legal action is necessary. We have worked with Alverstone Infant School to agree two INSET days (6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October) which provide the opportunity for a long weekend, without the need to take children out of school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Graham Cutter  
Headteacher