



Rack House Primary School
Yarmouth Drive
Nothern Moor
Manchester
M23 0BT
Tel 0161 9982544

Headteacher: Miss T A Wood (B.Ed Hons/NPQH)

5th November 2013

Dear Parents

During the 2011-12 academic year almost 10% of absence from school in England was due to parents taking their children on holidays during term time. This high level of absence has led the government to make important changes to legislation.

From 1st September 2013, the new law gives no entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must only be in **very exceptional circumstances** and I have to be satisfied that the circumstances are **exceptional** before granting any leave.

From September, Head teachers **are not** expected to approve **any term time holiday as exceptional**. All schools are now encouraged to request that the Local Authority issue a **Penalty Notice** to parents for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.

From September 2013 these notices are £60 per child per parent if paid within 21 days rising to £120 if paid between 22 and 28 days.

We do appreciate the challenges that some parents face when planning and booking holidays, particularly during school holidays. However, all time in school is important and we are expecting that you will fully support the school as it responds to this new legislation.

We will no longer authorise time off school for holidays under any circumstances.

In addition, "Leave of absence" will **only be authorised in very exceptional circumstances** for a limited period of time.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the school to thank you for your full support in this matter by not taking your child out of school during term time and conforming to new Government regulations.

My apologies for having to send this letter to the vast majority of parents who would never consider removing their son/daughter from school for a holiday

Yours sincerely

T A Wood
Headteacher