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City Community Learning Trust

**Holiday Absence
 Attendance Matters**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your child/ren attend school everyday. Since my last letter, the attendance for Summer 1 was 96%. Thank you, this really is making a difference to your children’s education.

We do still however have an issue with some of our families taking holidays during school time. During the academic year 2017/18, **1326 sessions, were lost due to families taking their children out of school.** This is the equivalent of **almost 3 years lost learning** for Woodthorpe Pupils! Already this year the number of sessions lost is at **605!**

Before booking a term time holiday, please note that children are only expected to attend school for 190 days per year. This leaves 175 days available for holidays, day trips etc.

The table below illustrates the impact the time missed will have on the education of your child. Please be aware that absence from school not only affects academic achievement, it can also affect their social development and impact on friendships.

Please take the time to look at these figures and consider the impact carefully before requesting term time leave for holidays. We would also like you to consider that should your child also have a period of illness on top of a holiday absence, the impact on learning for your child could be significantly worse, with potential for your child to be classed as a Persistent Absentee.

Holidays taken per year	% of learning missed in one year	Max attendance that could be achieved in the year	Time missed in Education between Y1-Y11
5 days	2.6%	97.4%	Almost 1 term
10 days	5.2%	94.8%	Over half a year
15 days	7.9%	92.1%	Almost 1 year

The law states that the headteacher may **not** authorise a term time holiday unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. Exceptional circumstances are defined as, ‘**unique or once in a life time opportunities, which may include family circumstances**’. We are acutely aware of the cost implications of family holidays during school time, however, this is **NOT** classed as an exceptional circumstance.

As ever we would like to work closely with our families. If, **even after considering the facts and figure above**, you should you wish to request a term time holiday, we ask this is done at the earliest opportunity. You will then be invited to meet with myself to discuss the matter further.

Once again I would like to thank all our families for supporting us in ensuring that your children attend school everyday. We really are noticing the difference!

Kind Regards,

Dave Smith (Headteacher)

