

# Alburgh with Denton Church of England Primary School

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Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is being sent out alongside another letter regarding attendance, with particular reference to term time holidays. The accompanying letter is based on Norfolk County Council guidelines. As a Local Authority school, we have to adhere to certain requirements.

As a school we have noticed a rise in term time holidays before Covid-19, and although we recognise the benefits of travel and cultural experiences and understand that holidays are cheaper during term time, we have to adhere to Norfolk regulations.

Teachers have noticed that term time holidays can have a huge impact on a child's learning. The National Curriculum changed in 2014 and expectations were significantly increased at all ages, making the curriculum potentially harder for children. Due to the amount of work teachers have to cover in a year the curriculum moves at an incredibly fast pace, this makes it more difficult for teachers to re-visit any work missed and for children to catch up.

If you do need to take a term time holiday, please collect a request form from Mrs Byer. If the request is for 9 sessions, (4.5 school days) it could be eligible for a Fixed Penalty Notice, which could result in a fine. The holiday request will then be sent anonymously to a panel which is made up of governors who are not parents or staff. They will then make the decision as to whether or not the request can be authorised. If the request is authorised nothing will be sent to the Local Authority. If the governor panel, make the decision that the absence is unauthorised Mrs Byer will refer the case to the LA. Please be aware that no members of staff are involved in the decision making process and that the school does not receive the money when a fine is issued. Either way you will be informed by letter about whether or not your holiday request has been authorised.

Please be aware that we are only allowed to authorise holiday which is classed as an exceptional circumstance, an example of this is a wedding or funeral.

I hope this helps to clarify the accompanying letter. Please speak to us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sonnex  
Headteacher

