



ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Let all that you do be done in love.” 1 Corinthians 16:14

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN TERM TIME

The staff and Governors prefer children not to be absent from school as this is invariably detrimental to the child’s learning and progress. The curriculum is often sequential and absence can disrupt learning. It can also disturb the progress of children who have not been absent because the teacher needs to give more attention to the returning child. The nature of the curriculum is also such that it is not possible to set “holiday work.”

Parents/carers should not normally take their children out of school during term time. **There is no legal right to do so.** The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 removed references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that Headteachers and the Governing Body may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

The Governing Body discourage parents/carers from removing their children from education for any reason as absences have a negative impact on the pupil’s educational attainment and progress. A child who takes 10 days absence will only attain 94.7% attendance in a year. This is below our school attendance target. 10 days absence also means the child will miss 50 hours of education.

If the absence is not authorised and the holiday is taken, the case will be referred to the Local Authority who may issue a Penalty Notice for **£160** (or **£80** if paid within 21 days) to each parent/carer for each child taken out of school.

Please note: A second Penalty Notice issued within a three year period will result in a fine of £160 per parent/carer, per child. If a third offence is committed the matter may be referred to the Local Authority for consideration of prosecution via the Magistrates Court. If prosecution is instigated for irregular school attendance, each parent/carer may receive a fine of up to £2500 and/or up to 3 months in prison. If a parent/carer is found guilty in court, they will receive a criminal conviction.

Applications must be made through the School Office, normally four weeks before a holiday request.

Name of Child(ren) _____ Class(es) _____

Date of First Day of Absence _____

Date of Return to School _____

Number of School Days Requested _____

Reason _____

Please attach a letter outlining the ‘exceptional circumstances’ for which leave of absence is being applied for. If this is not provided the school will be unable to authorise the request. You may use the reverse of this form, if you wish.

Signature of parent/carer _____ Date _____

Name (please print in capital letters) _____

Contact telephone number _____

School/office use only:

Signature Governor	<u>This absence is authorised</u>	<u>This absence is unauthorised</u>
Date		