



**St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School**

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28th June 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to let you know about the change in the law regarding holidays during term time. From the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013, parents no longer have any entitlement to take their child on holiday during the school term and schools have lost their dispensation to authorise such holidays entirely.

The Government have issued a list of exceptional reasons which are as follows:

- family needs arising from service in the armed forces or from a parent working abroad
- bereavements
- exceptional family ceremonies
- a holiday necessitated due to a disability or illness in the family

Schools have been advised that the cost of holidays or work rotas of parents can no longer be considered exceptional reasons.

Our school, along with all the other local schools, have always endeavoured to be as reasonable as possible where term time holidays are concerned, and have authorised up to ten days in any single academic year. Please be aware that from September we will not be able to authorise holidays in term time as we must comply with the law.

From September 2013, parents will be required to write to the co-headteachers to request any leave of absence. Parents are asked to give as much notice as possible and to include in the letter, as much detail as possible including the reason for the absence.

We would like to draw to your attention that parents can be fined (by the Local Authority) for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from school, and we are keen for our parents to avoid finding themselves in this position.

Parents are welcome to discuss your individual circumstances with the co-headteachers.  
Thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

J M Whitaker  
Co-headteacher