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Dear Parents,

Holidays in term time

At Southcote Primary School parents have been able to request up to ten days leave in “special circumstances” for family holidays which I have granted providing the child’s attendance was above 97%.

I need to inform you that from the 1st September 2013 the Government is changing the legislation and this will no longer be the case. Headteacher’s may only authorise absence from school in exceptional circumstances and not for family holidays. Therefore we will not be authorising holidays in term time from the start of the autumn term 2013.

The following is an extract from the Department for Education website outlining the changes...

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

Amendments have been made to the 2006 regulations in the **Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013**. These amendments, as described below, will come into force on 1 September 2013.

Term-time holiday

The **Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006** currently allow Headteachers to grant leave of absence for the purpose of a family holiday during term time in “special circumstances” of up to ten school days leave per year. Headteachers can also grant extended leave for more than ten school days in exceptional circumstances.

Amendments to the 2006 regulations remove references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Headteachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

If you wish to read more please visit the site on
www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Telling

