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18th July 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you may have seen in the news there is new statutory guidance from the DfE regarding attendance which is effective from 19th August 2024. Please see below some of the changes.

- From the 2024-25 school year, the fine for school absence penalty notices across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days. If you do not pay the fine you may be prosecuted in court. Both parents will receive a fine.
- If a parent receives a second penalty notice for the same child within any three-year period, the charge will be a flat rate of £160; there will be no reduction if paid within 21 days. Penalty notices for absence before the 2024-25 school year do not count.
- A parent cannot receive more than two penalty notices for the same child within any three-year period. This is because it is clear that previous penalty notices have not worked. Once this limit has been reached, another action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. Penalty notices for absence before the 2024-25 school year do not count in this limit.
- From September, schools will have to consider a fine if a pupil misses 10 sessions (half days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. The threshold can be met with "any combination of unauthorised absence". For example, four sessions in term time plus six instances of arriving late (after register closes at 8.55am). The period of 10 weeks can also span "different terms or school years".
- Schools must share daily attendance data with government from September.
- Schools will have to give councils the name and address of sick pupils who they believe will miss 15 consecutive or cumulative days.

Please find below a link to the government guidance

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/back-into-school/resources-for-families

Thank you for your support. I hope together we can make improvements to attendance and punctuality.

Best wishes

Mrs. L. Frazer

Headteacher

