

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II schools closed on Monday 19th September to allow the nation to mourn and engage in the State Funeral. School welcomed back pupils on Tuesday 20th September.

Schools across the nation, over the last two years, have experienced significant challenges as they tried to cope with the pandemic. We maintained an education programme, whilst at the same time supporting families. This support was wide ranging, reflecting the support needs of our families. One area of support was authorising holidays during term time for families who had to cancel holidays through no fault of their own. Whilst school has been as supportive as it can, The Department of Education has made several clear statements that previous rules in relation to holidays during term time must be put back in place.

What does this mean?

From Friday 23rd September school will not be able to support any further requests for holidays during term time unless **exceptional circumstances** are evidenced by the family.

We define 'exceptional circumstances' as:

- Funeral of a parent, grandparent or sibling
- Wedding of a parent or sibling
- Religious observance
- Sporting events or performing arts competitions at county or national level, if the child is participating
- Graduation ceremony of an immediate family member
- House move

This list is not exhaustive. *Family holidays do not come under the definition of exceptional.* Each application is considered on a case by case basis and includes the child's attendance history.

It is important that to make progress with learning and wider skills children need to be in school.

Short Term Outcomes (STO) and Individual Positive Behaviour Support Plans (IPBSP)

Short Term Outcomes provide information about the targets your child is working towards in school. They are linked to the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and are reviewed 3 times during the academic year. Some pupils benefit from the additional support of a IPBSP. The plan details what a pupil might find difficult to allow them to access learning and the strategies that all staff can use to support. This makes the school approach consistent.



Headteacher: Mr M. McCann

STO's and IPBSP's are issued today for Yr8-13 pupils. Yr7 pupils will receive their STO's and IPBSP's at the end of this half term (21st October) once we have been able to get to know the pupils better.

Flu Vaccinations

Also attached with this newsletter are details of upcoming flu vaccinations that are taking place in school on Tuesday 11th October.

Child Protection Online Monitoring System (CPOMS)

CPOMS is a software tool that allows school to record Safeguarding, wellbeing, behaviour and pastoral issues. The information is freely available to parents and carers should a request be made.

Next week:

Sixth Form Opening Evening: An evening supported by sixth form staff, local employers, colleges and support groups. The evening will be particularly useful for those pupils in Years 9-11

MacMillan Coffee morning: 10:00am-11:00am, in the school gym - all welcome.

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Mr McCann
Headteacher



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