



Oaklands Infant and Junior Schools

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19th July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of this academic year, we felt it important to make you all aware of changes to the law regarding school attendance which will be in force from 19th August 2024. The DfE has published a new version of [working together to improve school attendance](#) which contains all the information about changes that will happen over the summer holidays but we thought that you needed to be made aware of this now, before the start of a new academic year.

Attached is our joint Oaklands 'Attendance Matters' poster that gives this information in a more accessible way.

We do not wish to create anxiety just before the holiday but as the DfE are bringing this into effect during August, you could easily miss this.

Please note that there are changes to the fines known as Fixed Penalty Notices which will now apply to unauthorised absences of 10 sessions (previously 5 days) in a 10 week period. It is Wokingham Borough Council who make any decisions regarding Fixed Penalty Notices but we have a duty to inform them when children are absent for 10 sessions in a 10 week period.

- First Offence: Fixed Penalty Notices will be £160 per parent, per child, to be paid within 28 days (reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days)
- Second Offence (within 3 years) will be £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days
- Third/Further Offences (within 3 years): No Fixed Penalty Notice and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court where fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per child.

This week we have received a few requests for holidays during term time, so we felt it imperative that you are all aware of the changes to the law before we break for the summer. We do hope you all have a lovely summer break with your families.

Kind regards,

Miss E Weston
Acting Headteacher
Oaklands Infant School

Mrs H West
Headteacher
Oaklands Junior School