October 2015

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you to give everyone an update on how schools now have to judge attendance levels. For the last few years, schools were legally required to take action if a pupil’s attendance fell below 85%. We are using the services of Access Education for assisting us with this.

From September onwards, schools now have to legally take action if a pupil’s attendance falls below 90% (known as ‘persistent absenteeism’) and we have a monitoring system which flags up any pupils who drop below this level. I am completely sympathetic to the fact that there are sometimes very genuine reasons why a child’s attendance drops below 90% and if this is the case, we will be very aware of these reasons.

Our stance on holiday requests will remain as normal and any requests for term-time holiday will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. This is a statement that we are required to follow by the Department for Education.

Our attendance levels and especially our persistent absenteeism levels are really improving so many thanks from me on that one!

As always, thank you for your continued support,

Tim Sutcliffe
Executive Head