



Attendance Support Team  
Education & Corporate Parenting  
Telford & Wrekin Council  
Darby House  
Lawn Central  
Telford  
TF3 4JA

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

To all parents,

**Re: Information relating to unauthorised leave in term time from school.**

You may be aware of a recent Court case that the media reported on regarding a father that took his child on holiday during term time. On the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 the father, Mr Jon Platt, lost his case in the Supreme Court (The Isle of Wight LA v Jon Platt) that was originally heard on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

*'The Supreme Court unanimously allows the Council's appeal, declaring that the word 'regularly' means 'in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school'.*

*It was further stated that 'Accordingly the Penalty Notice was properly issued to Mr Platt and, having not paid the Penalty Fine, he should have been convicted of the offence unless he can establish one of the statutory exceptions. The case is therefore returned to the Magistrates Court with a direction to proceed as if his submission of no case to answer had been rejected'.*

Following the judgement in this case from the Supreme Court, Telford & Wrekin Council will continue to follow current guidance and legislation imposed by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Code of Conduct regarding term time holidays in Telford & Wrekin schools. More Information is available on the Telford & Wrekin Website or from your child's school.

If any parent wishes to apply for leave in term time for their child they should approach the school for the appropriate form. Any leave should not be booked until the Headteacher has agreed to give their permission for the absence. The Headteacher has the discretion when deciding whether to authorise any requests for leave in term time.

The Attendance Support Team will continue to support all local schools in their efforts to work with families to improve school attendance for all children as it is so very important for children and their life outcomes. Telford & Wrekin are pleased to report that recent validated data from the DfE confirms that overall school attendance in the Borough is above the National Average.

Both school staff and The Attendance Support Team are happy to answer any queries parents may have regarding leave in term time.

Kind Regards,

Kay Burford  
Attendance Support Team Leader

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