

Thurton CE Primary



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Tel: 01508 480335
Fax: 01508 480478
Email: office@thurton.norfolk.sch.uk
Web: www.thurton.norfolk.sch.uk

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Dear Parents

Attendance at school and legal intervention

You will be aware that the law requires all parents to ensure that their child attends school regularly. Research has shown that children often do not catch up on work missed, which can have serious consequences for their learning and progress. The Government is very clear that all schools much aim to have the highest attendance possible for all of their pupils in order for them to achieve their maximum potential. As mentioned in newsletters previously, attendance has improved this year and we wish to thank parents for helping with this.

The Local Authority has introduced a system for legal intervention which could be in the form of a Fixed Penalty notice. The school has no option but to follow this system - the level where we need to automatically report to county is where:

- pupil who has attendance of 85% or less with at least 15% unauthorised absence over a 6 week period or
- where children have 10 consecutive sessions of unauthorised absence (5 days)

On every school report the percentage of total attendance is written and this can be obtained through the office as well.

Starting from the 25th of February 2014, any pupil in Thurton Church of England Primary school who meets either criteria, will be referred to the Local Authority for action to be considered. This means anyone taking holidays in term time after this date.

It is really important to note that if a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued, it is a fine of **£60 per parent per child**, which must be paid in one payment within 21 days, if unpaid a further invoice of £60 per parent per child is issued, both individual invoices would then have to be paid. The per parent per child, also relates to parents who are divorced, so if there are four adults with **parental responsibility** then whoever takes the child/ren on holiday **all adults** have to pay the fine no matter who the children are on holiday with. That is a significant difference to the fine!

Failure to pay the total amount within the timescale can result in legal action being taken and a fine of up to £2,500 or 3 years in jail.

Our aim of course is to ensure that the children in our care receive the most from their education and I know we can count on your support in this matter. However, if you still decide to take your children during term time on holiday, a form must be filled in informing the school of the dates. These forms are available in my office and are available on request and a short meeting with me.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Cassandra Williams
Head teacher



Thurton Church of England Primary School
Ashby Road
Thurton
Norfolk
NR146AT