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Dear Parent or Guardian,

Term Time Holiday Requests-letter being sent to all Primary and Secondary Schools in TLP(Taunton Learning Partnership)

You will already know that the Government, the LA, and therefore Headteachers are determined to make attendance in schools as high as possible. This is important because high attendance and success at school go hand in hand.

As Headteachers in the Taunton area, we want to be as fair and consistent as possible when considering holiday requests. Therefore all schools in the Taunton area have agreed to follow the same approach to requests for holidays in term time.

As a group we are keen to discourage term time holidays.

In making the decision to authorise or not authorise the request, on the basis that this is the **sole** family holiday, the Headteacher will consider carefully the following questions;

- Does the holiday have to be taken in term time?
- Are there compassionate grounds? (eg family wedding, funeral)
- Has the child been excluded during the course of the year?
- What will be the effect of the timing of the holiday on the child's education? (eg beginning of school year, run up to tests or exams)
- Is the pupil taking part in an educational activity. (eg county or national sporting event)

When we receive a request for a term time holiday, our decision to authorise it or not will also be based upon the child's attendance record over the past year. It is unlikely that a holiday will be authorised if the level of attendance is below the Government target of 90%. Equally, an attendance level above this target is no guarantee that the holiday request will be automatically authorised. A letter will be sent to you informing you of the decision.

Kind regards,

Kirsti Nelson
Headteacher

