



23rd March 2017



Dear Parent / Carer,

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE (HOLIDAYS) IN TERM TIME**

The Wolgarston Collaboration is aiming to keep the attendance rates of all its pupils as high as possible. Due to consistency between schools we have made significant improvements to attendance rates across all eleven schools since the attendance agreement within the Collaboration.

Following the recent High Court Judgement regarding a Parent's holiday request we have been contacted by Nick Gibb, MP who has reiterated the guidance that leave of absence should only be granted in exceptional circumstances. These are classed as 'rare, significant, unavoidable and short'.

These are still at the discretion of the Headteacher in each school. The Department of Education is due to send out further guidance to schools in the near future.

Should the school decide not to grant leave of absence and parents still take their child out of school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised, which may then be referred to the Education Welfare Worker for further action. We would urge you to support the schools and your child's progress by ensuring they are in school as much as possible and holidays are not taken in term time.

**ATTENDANCE WEEK—Monday 27th March to Friday 31st March**

In order for our children to reach their full potential, it is important that they attend school every day and arrive on time

For the week of 27th to 31st March, we will focus on school attendance as a priority. The Education Welfare Service and other agencies will be working closely with us during this week to tackle any attendance or punctuality issues which emerge.

Our focus on attendance for this week will mean that:

- You may receive a home visit from Education Welfare, or other agencies, if your child does not attend school during this week or if there are any current or on-going concerns, such as with a child's punctuality.
- School Assemblies/Collective Worship are likely to have a strong attendance focus.
- Your child may meet with an Education Welfare Officer in school to discuss their school attendance and ways of improving their percentage attendance.
- Education Welfare Officers and the Police will be conducting truancy patrols.
- A target of 100% attendance is the goal for all of our children.

Thank you, in advance, for your support.

Yours sincerely,

*G Yates*

**Mrs G Yates**  
Executive Headteacher  
St Leonard's CE  
First School,  
DUNSTON

*J Grundy*

**Mrs J Grundy**  
Headteacher  
St Michael's CE (A)  
First School,  
PENKRIDGE

*K. Roberts*

**Mrs K Roberts**  
Headteacher  
St Paul's CE  
First School,  
COVEN

*H Johnson*

**Mrs H Johnson**  
Headteacher  
Princefield  
First School,  
PENKRIDGE

*S Lamond*

**Mrs S Lamond**  
Headteacher  
St Mary and St Chad  
CE First School,  
BREWOOD

*E Challiner*    *N Frost*

**Miss E Challiner**  
Headteacher  
St John's CE  
First School,  
BISHOPS WOOD

**Mrs N Frost**  
Headteacher  
Penkridge Middle  
School,  
PENKRIDGE

*Mr P Tapp*

**Mr P Tapp**  
Headteacher  
Wolgarston High  
School,  
PENKRIDGE

*Mrs D Spiers*

**Mrs D Spiers**  
Headteacher  
Marshbrook First School,  
PENKRIDGE

*Mr D Swift*

**Mr D Swift**  
Executive Headteacher  
Brewood CE Middle School,  
BREWOOD &  
St Mary's CE First School,