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Headteacher: Mr S Yalden BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE LEAVE REQUEST
NOTICE TO PARENTS /CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer

The law does not grant parents an automatic right to take their child out of school during term time. Any absence from school will disrupt your child's learning. You may consider that a holiday will be educational, but your child will miss out on the teaching that their classmates will receive during your holiday. Attendance is vital to academic success and lost education poses a potential risk of underachievement. This is something we all have a responsibility to avoid.

The Department for Education no longer allows Headteachers to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you consider that your request for absence is exceptional you will need to complete the form attached to this notification. A response will be sent to you as soon as possible. If leave is not authorised and you nevertheless withdraw your child from school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in legal action. Absence not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court.

'Parent' as set out in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, defines parent to include: natural parents, whether they are married or not; any person or body who has parental responsibility for a child (as defined by the Children Act 1989) and; any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child. Having care of a child means a person with whom a child lives and who looks after a child, irrespective of what their relationship is with said child. All requests **must** be completed on the attached form, **letters will not be accepted.** This form should be returned to school at least 15 days before the start of the absence.

I hope you will support our efforts in raising your child's attendance and attainment.

Yours faithfully

Mr Scott Yalden
Headteacher

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EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE LEAVE REQUEST

APPLICATION BY PARENT/CARER

If you consider an absence during term time to be an exceptional circumstance, please complete this form and return it to the school at least 15 school days before the date you wish to remove your child from school.

Student Name: _____DOB: _____ Tutor Group/Class: _____

Home Address: _____

_____Post Code: _____

Name of Parent/Carer completing this form: _____

First day of absence: _____   Date of <u>return</u> to school: _____

If leaving your home address before the first day of absence, please provide the date on which you will

leave_____

Total number of school days missed: _____ days

Reason for absence:

*I un*derstand that if the absence request is unauthorised the school may request that Cornwall Council issue a Penalty Notice. I understand that a Penalty Notice is issued to each liable parent/carer of each child taken out of school and that this carries a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days, increasing to £120 if paid within 28 days. I understand that if I do not pay the fine, it may result in legal action being taken against me. I understand that parents have a duty to ensure their child's regular attendance at school and failure to do so is an offence under Section 444(1) and Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996.*

Signed ………………………………………………………………… Dated ………………………………………………………….
        (Please ensure you give at least 15 school days' notice of the proposed absence)