DUCKMANTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Duckmanton Primary School
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Headteacher: Emma Levers

Dear Parents and Carers,

08.10.2026

RE: Holidays in term time

At Duckmanton Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that every child has the very best opportunity to succeed, both academically and personally.

I am writing to ask for your support in helping us achieve this by avoiding taking holidays during term time.

I completely understand that family holidays taken during school holidays can often be significantly more expensive. As parents ourselves, we recognise the financial pressures that many families face and appreciate that these decisions are not always straightforward. However, it is important to consider the impact that time away from school can have on a child's education.

Every day in school matters. Lessons are carefully planned so that learning builds progressively over time. When a child misses school, they do not simply miss a single lesson; they miss vital learning, discussions, practical activities and opportunities to develop their understanding alongside their classmates. While teachers work hard to support children on their return, it is often difficult to fully replicate the learning experiences they have missed.

Children who are absent can also find it challenging to re-establish routines, rebuild confidence and reconnect with the pace of learning within the classroom. This can place additional pressure on both the child and their teacher.

Schools are expected by Ofsted to ensure that pupils make good progress and achieve well. When children miss school, teachers are required to help them catch up on missed learning. However, finding additional time to support absent pupils can be incredibly challenging while also teaching the rest of the class and meeting the needs of all learners. The more pupils who are absent during term time, the greater this challenge becomes.

Attendance has a direct link to educational achievement. National data consistently shows that children with higher attendance are far more likely to achieve their expected standards and fulfil their potential. Even a small number of days missed can accumulate over time and have a significant impact on a child's learning journey. Put simply, children who attend school regularly are far more likely to achieve their personal best.

Excellent attendance also helps children to develop important life skills such as responsibility, resilience, commitment and positive routines, all of which support future success.

Our aim is to work in partnership with families to ensure every child receives the education they deserve. We therefore ask that holidays and family trips are arranged during the designated school holiday periods.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Levers
Headteacher