



Happy New School Year! Welcome back to school to all of our students and their families, and a particular mention to our new Year 7s and their families; we know what a 'big step' it is for everyone with the transition from primary to secondary school. Students are looking incredibly smart and professional in their uniforms – and their smart professional business wear in the sixth form – and ready to learn and work hard. Welcome assemblies this week have shared images of some of our Year 11 and Year 13 students who achieved exceptional exam results, and students are very clear around the expectations of working hard in order to achieve success; we thank our parents and carers for reinforcing this at home. We are aware of the need to ensure that students have more work to do at home, and you will hear more from us about our revised approach to homework in the coming weeks.

There has been a lot of building work and remodelling undertaken at school over the summer holidays; members of our Student Support team are now all based in the same office area, and this will make our in-school communication processes smoother, further supporting us with improvements in this area. Please continue to use [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) and the processes outlined here if you need us to get in touch. Our Sixth Form have a new space with plenty of room for silent study, and there will be opportunities for our Year 11 students to use this space at the end of the school day to support their GCSE preparation; we will share more details about this with you as the term progresses.

Breakfast Club is up and running; thank you to Warburtons who continue to provide us with bread and bagels to enable this to run free of charge for our students. Students are welcome to attend from 8am in the Restaurant.

Have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to seeing our students back in school on Monday; a reminder that all students must be in line-up for 8.25am.

Upcoming Dates

Monday 16th September – Year 7 and 10 School Photographs

Thursday 19th September – Year 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 School Photographs

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Welcome Back

w/c 09/09 - Expectations and vision for the year ahead

w/c 16/09 - Internet Safety

Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have learnt in Assembly.



DO YOU WANT TO STUDY IN A BRAND NEW
PURPOSE BUILT SIXTH FORM AREA?



Do you prefer smaller class sizes?

Do you want to benefit from a
new enrichment programme with
exciting rewards such a driving
lessons and gym membership?



Gospel Oak Sixth Form are still accepting
applications for the 2024/5 academic
year.

If you'd like to benefit from all of the
above, please email
sixthformenquiries@gospelookschool.co.uk



SDCA HEALTH GROUP

Do you want:

- ...to learn about better health awareness?
- ...to improve your mental wellbeing?
- ...to have a better understanding about healthy lifestyles?

Come join us! Tell us what you want from us

When?
27th September 2024
Time: 10am - 12 noon.

Where?
West Bromwich Community Centre,
Gayton Rd, West Bromwich B71 1QS

Join us

Text/Facetime/WhatsApp: 07791921011
Email: craig_pothecary@sdca.co.uk

This **ASK ABOUT ASTHMA WEEK**
 Join us for a fantastic **BOOK READING SESSION WITH AUNTIE DUCK!**

JOIN US FOR A FUN STORYTIME WITH OUR QUIRKY AUNTIE DUCK! SHE'LL TAKE YOU ON AN ADVENTURE WHERE YOU'LL LEARN ALL ABOUT AIR POLLUTION AND DISCOVER COOL WAYS TO DEAL WITH IT AND PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IT!

GET READY FOR SOME HANDS-ON FUN AS YOU LEARN HOW TO CREATE YOUR VERY OWN AIR POLLUTION CATCHER! YOU'LL DISCOVER HOW TO BUILD A COOL GADGET THAT CAN HELP YOU SEE WHAT'S IN THE AIR AROUND YOU.

PREPARE FOR A BLAST AS YOU HUNT FOR HIDDEN WORDS IN A WORD SEARCH, SOLVE EXCITING PUZZLES, AND LET YOUR IMAGINATION RUN WILD WITH COLOURFUL PAINTING FUN!

IF YOU'RE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 5 AND 11, YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US!

FREE

Monday, 9 September 2024 at 3:30pm - 4:30pm
 Oldbury Library, Sandwell Council House B69 3DE

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Dog Duck & Cat

GREEN ROOTS ON THE MEADOW

Live Music

SAT 7 SEPT 2024

10AM - 2PM

FREE Family Friendly & Fun Activities

Meadow cutting and seed sowing with the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust

Live musical performance of poetry map *Sounding the West Bromwich Way* by Lee Mackenzie

Performance by **Open Theatre**

FREE HOTDOGS!

By Percy's Hotdogs 11.30am - 1.30pm. First come, first served!

Meadow behind Primark in the New Square Shopping Centre, West Bromwich, accessed on the corner of Walsall Street, opposite Tiny Tots Academy.

For more information visit the Multistory website: multistory.org.uk



DIGITAL BASICS USING CHROMEBOOKS

JUBILEE PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

2nd October 2024 - 11th December 2024
1PM - 3PM

Free!

Topics covered

- Basics of using a Chromebook
- Sending email
- Searching online
- Using Googles Docs and other apps
- Keeping safe online

For information call
0121 520 0234
www.learnsafl.ac.uk



Winner of the WMCA Adult Learner Awards 2024
Digital Inclusion Project



Adults Intensive Swimming Lesson Programme

Sandwell Aquatics Centre | B67 7EW

FREE 5 day course for beginners.

Starts W/C 30th September 2024
12:00-12:30 Monday to Friday.



FREE

www.slt-leisure.co.uk

Healthier Futures

Black Country Integrated Care System

Do you want to learn how
to spot cancer early?



Pop along to your local
cancer bus on tour to find
out more.

Mon 9 Sept,
10.00am – 4.00pm
Park Street,
Walsall Town Centre

Tues 10 Sept,
10.00am – 4.00pm
New Square Shopping
Centre, West Bromwich

Wed 11 Sept,
10.00am – 4.00pm
Queen Square,
Wolverhampton City Centre

Thurs 12 Sept,
10.00am – 4.00pm
Princes End - Tipton

Fri 13 Sept,
10.00am – 4.00pm
The Fountain, High Street,
Dudley Town Centre



DEAFBLIND



GROUP

Are you Deafblind living in Sandwell and the Black Country?

Would you like to meet other Deafblind people and make new friends?

Come and meet us

When: 25th September 2024 from 2pm – 4pm.

Where: West Bromwich, Community Centre,
Gayton Rd, West Bromwich B71 1QS

Text/Facetime/WhatsApp 07791921011

Email: craig_pothecary@sdca.co.uk

HEALTHY
SANDWELL

SANDWELL BETTER
MENTAL HEALTH
Better mental health for all



STAY & PLAY GROUP

For babies and Children ages 0 - 5 years



For

Deaf and hard of hearing families
Hearing parents of Deaf or hard of hearing children.
Deaf or hard of hearing parents of hearing children.

All are welcome



FREE SESSION

STARTING FROM MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2024
10AM - 12 NOON
BARNARDOS – TIPTON FAMILY HUB,
LEBEFIELDS ESTATE,
24 RIDGEWAY RD.,
TIPTON,
DY4 0TB



Want more information or book your place?
Contact us!

Phone/Text/Facetime
07791921011

Email:
craig_pothecary@sdca.co.uk



!FREE!

Come and join our family sessions!

Aimed at weak/non swimmers to learn how to be safe in and around water.

Venue: Sandwell Aquatics Centre

Dates & Times: **Every Sunday from the 16th September- 20th October- 4:15 - 4:45**

For booking & further info contact
Water Safety Coordinator-
Emma Beddowes

Email:
emma.beddowes@activeblackcountry.co.uk



Adults need to be in the pool with children



The 10th Annual
TIPTON COMMUNITY
FunDay
 VICTORIA PARK
 Victoria Road
 Tipton DY4 8SW

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER
12 NOON - 6.00PM

For Stall Bookings
0121 557 6766 or
Email: info@bwa-org.co.uk
 Parking available in Wellington Road DY4 8RS and
 Peel Street DY4 8RG Car Park. Local people
 are asked to walk to the Victoria Park.

MEDIA PARTNER

FREE ADMISSION!

THE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES FUND **Funded by UK Government** **Sandwell** **COMMUNITY FUND**

COME JOIN THE FUN!

LIVE STAGESHOW **INFLATABLES** **WRESTLING** **KID'S ACTIVITIES** **FAIRGROUND**

AND LOTS MORE!

PUBLIC SERVICE INFORMATION
 WEST MIDLANDS COMMUNITY AUTHORITY **THE NET ZERO NEIGHBOURHOOD**
 Sandwell **SCVO** **icanposter**

Supported By **poncho khana**

Supporting Sandwell Mayor's Charity Fundraising
Scan to Donate! **acorns** children's hospice

Healthier Futures
 Black Country Integrated Care System

SCAN ME

Sandwell People Panel

Jubilee Park Community Centre, Tipton,
 DY4 0RL

Join us for a cuppa at our People Panel and have your say on the things that matter most to you. With your help we can improve our health and care system and make sure all voices are heard and valued.

Wednesday 11 September
5pm - 7:30pm

People can book by calling **0121 612 1447** or email involve.blackcountry@nhs.net

Healthier place Healthier people Healthier futures

Healthier Futures
 Black Country Integrated Care System

NHS

Cancer screening

Scan here to find information about cancer signs and symptoms. Learn about support available and awareness raising in the Black Country from our Cancer Champions.

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/powsandwell/>

OPEN IN TIPTON, WEDNESBURY, WEST BROMWICH

Correct as of July 2024



A Place of Welcome offers your neighbourhood a place where everyone can go for a friendly conversation and free refreshments, if and when they need it

Bethel Christian Fellowship, Gads Lane, West Bromwich, B70 8QL - Wednesdays 11:00 - 13:00

The Gap Christian Family Centre, Hargate Lane, West Bromwich, B71 1PH - Wednesdays 11:30 - 13:00 *currently no wheelchair access

Wednesbury Baptist Church, Vicar Street, Wednesbury, WS10 9HF - Wednesdays 12:00 - 13:30

Great Barr Library, Birmingham Road, Great Barr Birmingham, B43 6NW - Thursdays 9:30 - 13:00

The Elite Church, 88 Owen Street, Tipton, DY4 8ET – Thursdays 9:30 – 11:15 and Saturdays 16:00 – 18:00

St Francis of Assisi, Parish Church, Freeman Road, Friar Park, Wednesbury, WS10 0HJ - Thursdays 10:00 - 12:00

Way 2 Wellbeing, Wednesbury Sons of Rest Community Centre, Foley Street, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 9HG (by Brunswick Park) - Thursdays 10:00 - 12:00

St Matthew's Church Hall, 106 Dudley Road, Tipton, DY4 8DJ - Thursdays 10:00 - 12:30 (term time)

Wednesbury Library, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, WS10 9EH - Thursdays 11:00 - 12:30

Thursdays Time, New Road Methodist Church, Mount Street, Great Bridge, Tipton, DY4 7DE - Thursdays 14:00 - 15:30

Friar Park Millennium Community Centre, Friar Park Road, Wednesbury, WS10 0JS - Fridays 10:00 - 13:00

Jubilee Park Centre, Powis Avenue, Tipton, DY4 0RJ - Fridays 11:00 - 12:00



A place where everyone can feel safe to connect, belong and contribute!



SUPPORTED BY :



Strengthening Communities Enabler
Carrie Blount
07377 918101
carrie.blount@lichfield.anglican.org

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/powsandwell/>

OPEN IN TIPTON, WEDNESBURY, WEST BROMWICH

Correct as of July 2024



A Place of Welcome offers your neighbourhood a place where everyone can go for a friendly conversation and free refreshments, if and when they need it, all year round.

4 Community Trust HUB West Bromwich, Wiltshire Way, Hateley Heath, West Bromwich, B71 1JU – Mondays – Thursday 09:00 – 14:00 and Fridays 09:00 – 13:00

South Staffordshire Water Community Hub, Union Street, Wednesbury, WS10 7HD - Mondays 09:00 – 12:30

Community Transport, West Bromwich Bus Station 0 Stand D, St Michael Street, West Bromwich, B70 7AB - Monday to Friday 9:00 - 13:00 and Saturdays 9:00 – 12:00

Crafternoon, Wednesbury Sons of Rest Community Centre, Foley Street, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 9HG - Mondays 12:30 - 15:30

Stone Cross Library, Beverley Road, West Bromwich, B71 2LH - Mondays 14:30 - 16:30

Hill Top Methodist Church, Wesley Community Centre, New Street, Hill Top, West Bromwich, B71 2EJ - Tuesdays 10:00 - 11:30

Hill Top Community Centre, Hill Top, West Bromwich B70 ORZ - Tuesdays 10:00 - 12:00 (includes an optional wellbeing walk)

St Mark's Parish Church, Ocker Hill Road, Tipton, DY4 0UT - Tuesdays 11:00 - 13:00

Great Bridge Community Forum, Farley Park Lodge, Whitehall Road, West Bromwich, B70 0HF - Tuesdays 12:00 - 14:00

St Mary Magdalene Church, Beaconview Road, Charlemont Farm, West Bromwich, B71 3PJ - Wednesdays 10:00 - 12:00

The Good Shepherd with St John, 4 Bromford Lane, West Bromwich, B70 7HP Wednesdays and Fridays 10:30 - 12:00

St Andrew's Church, 18 Dudley Street, West Bromwich, B70 9LR - Wednesdays 10:30 - 12:00



A place where everyone can feel safe to connect, belong and contribute!



SUPPORTED BY :



**DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD**



Strengthening Communities Enabler
Carrie Blount
07377 918101
carrie.blount@lichfield.anglican.org



To: Parents/Carers

Gospel Oak School

Bilston Road
Gospel Oak
Tipton
West Midlands
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

2nd September 2024

Our Ref: SBr.KH.3092

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Welcome

I write to welcome you back to the new academic year at Gospel Oak School.

I would like to congratulate all our students who achieved the significantly improved GCSE and A Level results this summer and to the staff and parents/carers who supported them. These results are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our students and their teachers. We are now aiming to improve on these results significantly with the current Years 11 and 13 and are confident we can do so.

In the new academic year, our priorities will be as follows:

Continuing to improve the GCSE and A Level results.

Continuing to improve the quality of teaching: all our students deserve teaching of the highest quality. I am delighted that the school will be fully staffed from September 2024, reducing the use of agency and supply staff but, most importantly, providing our students with the consistency and visibility of staff that they deserve. The newly appointed members of staff for September 2024 are: Miss Ansell-Simms (Head of Year), Miss Ashfield (teacher of English), Mr Bhatti (Assistant Year Team Lead and teacher of RE and criminology), Miss Chowlia (teacher of English), Mrs Clare (head of year), Miss Davies (Senior Lead Practitioner-science), Miss Hedges (teacher of drama and English), Miss Josephs (isolation manager), Mr Marrs (Head of Year), Mrs Mooney (Lead Practitioner-SEND), Mr Norford (teacher of art & design), Miss Price (higher level achievement assistant), Miss Shelley (teacher of PE and geography), Mr Shergill (Assistant Principal and teacher of maths), Miss Webb (teacher of history) and Mr White (teacher of PE and maths). The full list of staff and their role can now be found on the school's website by navigating to the 'Parents' section.

Continuing to improve behaviour for learning so that all students have an opportunity to make good progress in all their subjects. All our students deserve to learn in a disruption free environment.

Continuing to improve attendance. Our expectation is for all students to have 100% attendance and 100% punctuality to school and all lessons. As you know from Miss Bott's attendance letter, the Government has made changes to the law to address and improve school attendance rates. These changes aim to ensure that every child receives the full benefit of their education, as regular attendance is crucial for academic achievement and personal development. We urge all parents/carers to ensure they are aware of these legal updates and to support their son(s)/daughter(s) in pushing for 100% attendance.

The Government has made it very clear that Principals may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. In such exceptional circumstances, Principals determine the number of school days a student can be away from school if the leave is granted. Please note, that family holidays do not qualify as exceptional circumstances. The strongest factor in underperformance at GCSE and A Level is irregular or poor attendance and it is our belief that we would be failing in our responsibility if we sanctioned time off school in all but the most exceptional circumstances. In such circumstances, requests for the school to authorise absence should be made to me, in advance; not in retrospect.

The calendar for 2024/25 and term dates for 2024/25 and 2025/26 are available to view on the website by navigating to the 'News & Events' section to help parents/carers plan for the academic year and maximise their son/daughter's attendance in school. Every lesson missed is an opportunity missed. Conscientious students get work in advance from teachers and make up any written work missed as soon as they can, but group activities, oral work, practical work etc. simply cannot be made up, so students inevitably lose out and their progress is affected. The following national statistics clearly show the dramatic impact that poor attendance in term time can have on achievement:

- 97% attendance and above will give you a 73% chance of achieving grades 9-4 in English and maths at GCSE whatever your ability;
- Below 90% will give you only a 27% chance of achieving grades 9-4 in English and maths at GCSE whatever your ability;
- 90% attendance sounds good, but this is equivalent to one day off in ten and over the five years at Gospel Oak School is equal to 95 days of absence; and
- being absent for 17 days a year can lead to a drop in one GCSE grade.

Our own GCSE data supports this national pattern, and I hope this helps to explain my lack of flexibility in this area and why we strive so hard to exceed all our attendance targets.

Continuing to improve the literacy skills of all students: Poor literacy skills will act as a barrier to learning and, as a consequence, students' ability to learn is limited.

Continuing to improve the provision for our SEND students.

Over the summer, I'm sure that you enjoyed watching the GB team perform so magnificently at the Paris Olympics. However, at the same time we also had to witness the riots and public unrest across the country. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the three little girls who were so tragically murdered on 29th July 2024 in Southport: Bebe King, Alice da Silva Aguiar, and Elsie Dot Stancombe. The loss of these three lives and the impact not just on their families but also on their schools and communities is tragic beyond words. Violence has no place in our society and so it is devastating to see Muslims, refugees and people of colour, including children, targeted by violence. But is also heartening to see the swift action by the Government and so many people and communities responding with courage and optimism. I want to reassure you that there have been no reported incidents in Sandwell linked to the wider disturbances that have been seen in other areas of the country. Racism has no place in Sandwell, school or anywhere. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers also go out to the family of the 13 year old boy who was stabbed to death at his home in Oldbury last Thursday. As a school we offer safe spaces for our students and are ready to offer help and support where needed. If any students do need to discuss their feelings and emotions, they should approach their Year Team Lead, Assistant Year Team Lead or Head of Year who will be happy to help.

I am looking forward to meeting with parents/carers of all students over the coming weeks and months. My colleagues and I look forward to working with all students and with you during the coming year.

Please contact the school via the 'Contact Form' at [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Brownlow
Executive Principal



To: Parents / Carers

Gospel Oak School

Bilston Road
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DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

2nd September 2024

Our Ref: SBO.KH.3088

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Toilets

We are writing to inform you about an important update regarding the facilities at Gospel Oak School. Based on feedback from our Student Voice and to address issues related to vandalism, we have decided to install doors and locks on all open plan toilets within the school.

Please rest assured that this change is designed to ensure the safety and privacy of our students while maintaining full accessibility. Toilets will always be accessible for students, and those with toilet passes as well as girls who are menstruating, will have unrestricted access when needed.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we implement these changes to improve our school environment.

Kind regards,

Miss S Bott
Senior Vice Principal



To: Parents/Carers

Gospel Oak School

Bilston Road
Gospel Oak
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West Midlands
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351
F 0121 506 7833
W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

2nd September 2024

Our Ref: SBO.KH.3089

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Attendance

As we welcome the start of a new academic year at Gospel Oak School, we are excited to see our students return after a rejuvenating summer break. We hope you had a wonderful and restful time with your families. As we embark on this new journey together, we want to emphasise the critical importance of regular attendance. Consistent attendance is essential for your son's/daughter's academic success, social development and overall well-being. We look forward to your continued support in ensuring that your son/daughter attends school regularly and is fully prepared to engage in the learning experiences we have planned.

There are national concerns around school attendance, particularly regarding persistent absence rates, defined as attendance below 90%. In response to these issues, the Government has made changes to the law to address and improve school attendance rates. These changes aim to ensure that every child receives the full benefit of their education, as regular attendance is crucial for academic achievement and personal development. We urge all parents to be aware of these legal updates and to support their children in maintaining consistent attendance.

The legal changes are as follows:

- There will be a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice must be considered. Registers will close at 9.30am.
- The new rules mean you will no longer be able to take your son/daughter out of school for one week's holiday without a penalty notice being issued.
- There will be an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.
- If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.
- If a third penalty fine needs to be issued in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will need to consider other enforcement options available to them.

Please read the attached document for further information.

At Gospel Oak School, we have been diligently working to implement strategies aimed at improving attendance, with a particular focus on fostering a positive school culture. We believe that creating an environment where students feel valued and motivated to attend is crucial. The biggest rewards of good attendance are significant improvements in academic outcomes and enhanced mental health. Regular attendance not only helps students achieve their full academic potential but also supports their social and emotional well-being.

We have a dedicated student support team available to assist families in ensuring consistent attendance. Our team will continue to make daily phone calls when a student is not in school and conduct home visits on the third day of an absence. Please do not hesitate to contact your son's/daughter's Head of Year if you require any support. We look forward to a positive and successful year working collaboratively with you to support your son's/daughter's educational journey.

Kind regards,



Miss S Bott
Senior Vice Principal

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE LAW REGARDING ATTENDANCE

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence, including unauthorised holiday absence, is being introduced following changes to the law. These new Government regulations will come into effect from 19 August 2024, and we wanted to bring this to your attention now, as it will affect when penalty notices are issued at Gospel Oak School.

What are the changes?

- There will be a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice must be considered.
- The new rules mean you will no longer be able to take your son/daughter out of school for one week's holiday without a penalty notice being issued.
- There will be an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.
- If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same son/daughter within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.
- If a third penalty fine needs to be issued in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will need to consider other enforcement options available to them.

We would like to thank parents/carers for their support in making sure that students do not miss any learning time.

Frequently asked questions.

1. If I have already booked a holiday for next year, could I receive a penalty fine at the new higher rate?
Yes, if the absence has not been authorised by the Principal of your son/daughter's school. Remember, only the Principal can agree whether an absence can be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

2. Who can be issued with a penalty notice?
Each parent can receive a fine for each son/daughter who has had unauthorised absence from school.

In education law, anyone who lives with a son/daughter and who has day-to-day care of the son/daughter is also considered to be a parent whether they are the biological parent or not. For example, this will include step-parents and partners.

3. Do the new rules only apply to holidays during term time?

No, it applies to all unauthorised absence from school including holidays. Unauthorised absence includes other absence that has not been agreed such as truancy, arriving late after the register has closed at 9.30am and failing to provide reasons for absence.

4. How do I request for my son/daughter to have leave granted during term time?

It will be for your son's/daughter's Principal to decide as to whether there are exceptional circumstances that will allow them to grant the time off. Do not assume that the absence will be granted until you have received confirmation from the school. Any request must be put in writing at least 20 days before the proposed absence.

5. Do the 10 sessions of unauthorised absence have to be taken all at the same time before a penalty fine is issued to the parent/carer?

No, a penalty fine can be issued for any combination of absences over a 10-week rolling period. They can be consecutive or non-consecutive and can span over two terms.

6. What happens if I am issued with a penalty fine and I don't pay it?

Unauthorised absence from school is an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996. A penalty fine is an opportunity for you to settle out of court. If you don't take this opportunity, you can be prosecuted for the offence of failing to ensure your son/daughter's regular attendance.

7. What should I do if I am worried about my son/daughter's attendance?

In the first instance you should contact their Year team lead.