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Growing and Learning Together through Faith, Friends and Fun

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RE: School attendance and holidays during term time

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you today to convey our concern regarding attendance at Ysgol y Llan and in particular holidays taken during term time.

Despite school initiatives such as the weekly attendance trophy, monthly updates on school attendance via the newsletter, and 100% attendance postcards to name but a few, our attendance has been falling year on year.

Attendance for the academic year 2015/16 was 94.9%, the lowest figure recorded for the last 4 years and well below our target of 96%. This is not a great result! For example:

90% Attendance means half a day of school missed every week

90% Attendance means 4 weeks of school missed a year

90% Attendance means half the school year missed over 5 years

Of course, children fall ill and particularly so in primary school where close contact means viruses and other nasties are easily passed around. However, if your child has been off ill and is then also taken out of school for a holiday, this 90% mark can very easily be hit. If your child happens to fall ill again, their attendance record will fall well below this mark.

It is a very annoying and unjust fact that holidays cost more outside of term time and we fully understand that it is of course a great incentive to take advantage of lower prices. However, taking children out of school for a holiday has a detrimental effect on their education. It also disrupts the class upon the child's return, as the teacher may then have to spend time helping the child to catch up. Taking your child out of school during test periods reflects on school results and will also take the teacher away from the class as they will have to spend time testing your child outside of this period.

During our next Estyn inspection, our attendance figures will be scrutinised and our school will be marked down on a bad attendance record despite the fact that the staff and/or governors have had no influence over this.

It is in all our interest that Ysgol-y-Llan continues to be a good school.

It is in your child's interest that they know that every day at school counts and that Education is a Privilege!

Kind regards

The Governors of Ysgol y Llan