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Growing and Learning Together through Faith, Friends and Fun

Monday 4th September 2017

RE: School attendance and holidays

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you enjoyed the summer break and have been able to spend some quality time with your family and friends.

We ended last term with a successful Estyn school inspection and the report was published on 22nd August 2017. Hopefully, you have been able to read the inspection report and the many strengths of the school. It was disappointing for the school that although strong in every other area within the wellbeing section, the overall judgement was adequate, purely due to our attendance figures.

We have made a point of stating how important attendance is over the years and have put many strategies in place to improve it. However, holidays taken during term time have always had a big impact on our figures and in September 2016, the Governors wrote a letter encouraging you to carefully consider when you take school holidays.

This academic year, we are trialling putting all of our five INSET days together after the May half term. This may mean that families can get better deals on holidays taken during this period than if you went during peak times. We hope families will take this great opportunity to book holidays during this time rather than during term time.

Following on from our Estyn inspection, the governors of the school once again discussed attendance and the impact that it actually had on our Estyn report. The governors therefore unanimously agreed that this year we will not be authorising any school holidays during term time. Therefore, other than the holidays already granted, any holidays taken during term time will be recorded as 'unauthorised' on your child's attendance record.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Kind regards

Mr. Griffiths and the Governors of Ysgol y Llan