



Archbishop Blanch
SCHOOL

Archbishop Blanch School Voluntary Aided

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Headteacher: Mrs C Madeloso BA(Hons), MA, PGCE, NPQH

18 July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your support during the academic year 2018-2019.

It has been a busy and successful year at Archbishop Blanch School, with a very positive Ofsted inspection, excellent attendance and a variety of fantastic opportunities, both home and abroad for our students to learn outside of the classroom.

In advance of the new academic year, I would like to draw your attention to the following points:

We are fortunate to have such an early finish time (2.30 pm) for students and, whilst I appreciate that sometimes these are outside of parents' control, I would ask that appointments are made after school hours or in the school holidays.

I would like to remind parents about the school's policy on uniform, as previously mentioned in my end of term letters. As from September we will only allow students to arrive in regulation coats/jackets that are plain, dark navy or black and must be either $\frac{3}{4}$ or full length. Parents can find a full uniform list on our website, including acceptable footwear. We ask that you take particular note of this as we will be enforcing the rules on all uniform from September 2019.

This year we have seen a significant increase in the number of parents who are taking their children out of school during term time. This is disappointing as it negatively impacts on learning. As you are aware, school has a strict pupil attendance policy, from which I have copied an extract that relates to this issue:

*"The Law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must be in **truly exceptional circumstances** and the Headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave. Parents/carers can receive a Penalty Notice fine for taking their child on holiday during term time without prior consent from school. Consent cannot be given retrospectively. Headteachers cannot grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher will determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted. Applications should be requested directly to the Headteacher of the school before any expenses are committed. All applications for leave must be made, in advance, by the parent. Parents who wish to apply for a leave of absence must write directly to the Headteacher and sent to the Headteacher's PA at least 3 months before the proposed absence (where possible)."*

I would ask for your support in ensuring the policy is adhered to and that all holidays are taken in the lengthy holiday breaks that schools enjoy.

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We are still receiving complaints from our local residents about discourteous parking by our parents and particularly parking across their driveways. Can I respectfully request your consideration when dropping off or collecting your children at school.

We have received a very useful fact sheet for parents that gives guidance regarding the risks around screen time for children and how to keep your child safe and healthy. This factsheet, which has been posted on our website for your interest, offers support with:

- How to set parental controls on devices your children are likely to be using
- How to talk to your children about online safety
- How to set rules on screen time
- Ideas for what children could do instead.

We end the year tomorrow with a whole school Communion Service when students and staff will come together to celebrate the year and all its achievements. Following this, students will be dismissed from school at 12.00 noon and I would like to remind parents that alternative arrangements should be made for your daughter's safe journey home, as school buses will not be available at this earlier finish time.

I would like to finish by wishing you all a very restful summer with your families and look forward to seeing our students refreshed and ready for the new term at 8.30 am on Tuesday, 3 September 2019.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Madeloso
Headteacher