



At Davyhulme Junior School we  
will do our very best to help  
you achieve your very best.

8<sup>th</sup> September 2006

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have been extremely concerned at the number of children who have not returned from holiday yet and whose parents have done so without authorisation from school.

I am also extremely concerned and disappointed by the number of requests parents are making for holidays (after only four days in school) despite being informed on numerous occasions that permission will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. I have reproduced a newspaper article which has already been circulated to parents of Urmston Grammar School children.

**"Taking children out of school for holidays is illegal"**

"Parents are breaking the law if they take their children out of school for holidays during term without the permission of the head teacher". The High Court ruled yesterday. Schools, not parents, must decide whether children can be withdrawn from lessons for holiday or other family activities, Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Sullivan ruled. They declared that parents can face a criminal conviction if they remove children in defiance of school's wishes.

The Department for Education and Skills has already made clear its disapproval of term-time holidays and has urged head teachers not to grant them unless there are exceptional circumstances."

*From The Times Newspaper, March 2006*

Please understand that if you submit such a request the chances are that it will be refused and the holiday deemed to be unauthorised. I have no intention of entering into correspondence with any parent over such decisions as dealing with these requests is already taking up too much valuable time.

Any parent who does not agree with my decisions on holiday requests should appeal in writing to:

The Chair of Governors,  
c/o D.J.S,  
Canterbury Road,  
Urmston,  
M41 ORX

Unauthorised time off school cases may be referred to the Educational Welfare Officer who may consider taking legal action.

May I remind you holiday requests only apply to absences of between five and ten days or more.

Yours sincerely

Mr. P. McDowell  
Headteacher