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Tuesday 6th September 2016.

Dear Parent/Carers

All Staff at Jotmans Hall Primary School, would like to welcome everyone back to school for the autumn term. In July we wrote to all Parent/Carers, with the information that our attendance percentage had fallen from 96.3% to 95.54%, which is below the national average attendance percentage of 96%. Therefore this year, we are aiming for our attendance percentage to be above the national attendance percentage.

We are aware that, as soon as the children return to school after a holiday, the cost of a vacation can decrease dramatically and we appreciate the financial dilemma of Parent/Carers, who wish to take their children on holiday during school holiday, but are faced with higher holiday charges and costs. However, if a child has a low attendance percentage, this has a significant impact upon their ability to achieve their full academic potential.

As reported in July 2016, Nick Gibb has ordered that all school should ignore the Isle of Wight Court Ruling and has directed that Schools should continue applying the current regulations that allow Parent/Carers to be fined.

- Penalty notices may be issued where there are 5 days of unauthorised absences within a six week period.
- Penalty notices may be issued for unauthorised leave of absence of 5 consecutive days.

To support and inform Parent/Carers of their legal obligation with regard to attendance, the Senior Leadership Team have attached the following documents for all Parent/Carers to read and follow:

- The new Jotmans Hall Primary School Attendance Policy, which contains changes to when children are absent from school due to illness.
- The Leave of Absence Policy
- NHS guidelines to support Parent/Carers when their child is experiencing a particular ailment.

Copies of these documents will be posted on the Jotmans Hall Primary School website.

With regard to punctuality and to avoid any confusion concerning school hours, the information given to Parent/Carers in July 2015 still applies.

- The school gates are opened each morning at 8.45 a.m. for the children to come into school.
- At 8.55 a.m. the gates are closed and children who arrive after 8.55 a.m. need to enter the school through the main Office.
- The Office Staff record the names of all children who enter the school through the main entrance after 8.55 a.m. and a late mark is recorded against their name in the class register.

If your child is going to arrive at school, after 8.55 a.m. due to traffic, extreme weather conditions, health issues and family circumstances, please could you contact The Office to explain why they will be late.

Thank you for your continuing support, of our school community and helping us to ensure that every pupil in our school gains the maximum benefit from their school years.

Yours sincerely

Mrs PJC Lovett
Assistant Headteacher



