

Attendance Matters

Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. Please note there are two sessions in a day. Pupils who miss school frequently can fall behind in their work.

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks
96%	7 days	14 sessions	1.4 weeks
95%	9 days	18 sessions	2 weeks
90%	19 days	38 sessions	4 weeks
85%	29 days	58 sessions	6 weeks
80%	38 days	72 sessions	8 weeks
75%	48 days	96 sessions	10 weeks

Aim high for 97% or more



Every Minute Counts

If you arrive late to school every day, your learning begins to suffer. Below shows how being late to school every day over a school year adds up to lost learning time.

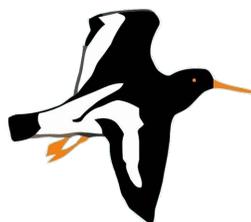


(Over one Academic Year)

SCHOOL counts!

As a parent & carer you can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by taking holidays during school holidays.

If you have any questions about taking holidays in term time please speak to the School Office



Joy Lane Primary School

Joy Lane
Whitstable
Kent
CT5 4LT

Phone: 01227 261430
E-mail: office@joylane.kent.sch.uk



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Holidays During Term Time

Holidays during school time may be less expensive, **BUT...**

Your Child's education is priceless!

Information for Parent & Carers



The Decision

- In making the decision whether to grant term-time holiday for a child, consideration is given to exceptional circumstances

The following reasons will not be considered as exceptional circumstances:

- Availability of cheap holidays
- Availability of accommodation
- Better Weather
- Overlap with the beginning or end of term



What you need to consider:

- Research suggests that children who are taken out of school may not be able to 'catch up' on the work that they have missed. This may affect a child's learning and progress

- Children who struggle with English or Mathematics may find it even more difficult when they return
- Some children may find it difficult to renew friendships with their classmates when they return to school
- If a child misses out settling in at the start of the school year, when they return they will be unfamiliar with class routines
- Please consider the unspoken message you are giving your child by letting them think it is acceptable to miss school. Some young people with severe truancy problems have told us that it all started when they had a week or two off school for a holiday.
- Children who need help in certain subjects need to access all the educational support that is offered.

If it is absolutely unavoidable...

Please complete a 'Leave of Absence Form' and submit with a written explanation, which will be considered by the Chair of Governors and Executive Head Teacher. Please send to the Attendance Officer, School Office, Joy Lane Primary School, Whitstable, Kent. CT5 4LT.



The Law

Parents & Carers do not have a legal or automatic right to take their child out of school for holidays during term-time.

In exceptional circumstances however, schools may allow, **in advance**, a request for a period of leave. The request for leave must come from a parent & carer with whom the child normally resides and must be for the purpose of an annual family holiday.

If you take a holiday without the school's permission or if the child fails to return on the agreed date this will be recorded as unauthorised absence (truancy).

This absence could be liable to a **£60*** fine per parent & carer for each child or the parent & carer could face prosecution in the magistrates court.

- *Penalty Notice £60 per parent & carer per child if paid within 21 days, increasing to £120 per parent & carer per child if paid after 21 days and before 28 days.*

The Facts

It is recognised that it is often expensive to take a holiday during school breaks, and that is why some parents & carers may ask for leave during term-time for their child.

However, it is important that parents & carers carefully consider the implications of taking their child out of school during term-time.