Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to the summer term. We hope you enjoyed a lovely Easter break.

We have had a really positive start to the term; we have lots coming up over the next few weeks, so please keep an eye out for email correspondence.

**Polling Day**

Polling day takes place on Thursday 4th May. The school building is no longer used as a polling station, instead the Children’s Centre will be used. This will be a normal school day. I have been asked to remind you all that we are now required to provide photo ID when voting – you will not be permitted to cast your vote without it.

Please follow this link for more information regarding acceptable forms of photo identification documents:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/voting-and-elections/photo-id-at-polling-stations>

**Attendance**

Congratulations to Year 2, who are the attendance winners this week with 99%. They spun the wheel of fortune and won an extra playtime which they will enjoy this afternoon. It has been the best week for attendance so far this year, thank you! We will be awarding pupils with outstanding attendance, with certificates, at the end of the half term.

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| **Class** | **Attendance Percentage Week beg. 17th April 23** |
| Reception | 98% |
| Year 1 | 98% |
| Year 2 | 99% |
| Year 3 | 97% |
| Year 4 | 97% |
| Year 5 | 98% |
| Year 6 | 95% |

**Holidays in Term Time**

We have received a number of letters to request permission for children to take holidays during term time. Please note that unless there are exceptional circumstances, we cannot approve these. We do understand that the cost of taking holidays during school breaks increases drastically, but this is not considered an exceptional circumstance. There are very few family situations which do fall into this bracket; the list of examples of reasons for us to approve is very short. We can, for example, approve children’s absence to attend their parents’ wedding or a holiday for children with parents in the military, who have returned from active duty. When you write to us, you will most likely receive a standard response letter to tell you that the absence will not be approved.

When considering taking children out of school, parents must understand that if children are absent without authorisation for 10 sessions (5 days), they will be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority. The LA will not take into consideration families’ financial situation and the initial fine is £60 per child for each parent with parental responsibility. So, this means that for one child the fine will be £60 for each parent, which is a total of £120. For 2 children, the fine would be £240. When parents do not pay these fines, the amount increases and the LA can take legal action. Please think very carefully before you take your children on holiday during term time.

**Coronation Day Celebrations and Extra Bank Holiday**

Please be reminded that school will be closed on Monday 8th May for the additional Bank Holiday, which has been given in celebration of His Majesty the King’s Coronation. We are busy planning how we will celebrate the coronation with children in school. More information will follow soon, both from school and Friends of Leftwich.

**Parent Governor**

We now have a vacancy on our Local Education Committee for a parent Governor. We will be sending out information about the role and nomination forms next week. If you are interested in joining our lovely team to support school as we move forward, and you would like to find out more about the role, please get in touch and we will be happy to meet with you.

We hope you have a lovely weekend – hopefully the sun will shine!

Kind regards,

Mrs C Harrison and Mrs L Guy