

9 February 2021

## **Attendance and Holiday Requests**

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for all your support over the past few weeks. It has been amazing to see the vast majority of children completing their remote learning and engaging with their teachers on the live Zoom lessons. We are so proud of them all.

Over the past few weeks, Rotherham has seen an increase in families travelling abroad. Some have consulted with their child's school, but many have left the country and not informed the school. This poses a great safeguarding issue and I would like to remind you that we still have the same safeguarding and attendance expectations while you are remote learning, as if your children were attending school in person.

As a school, we follow strict safeguarding and attendance procedures, and one area of this includes Child Missing in Education (CME). This means that if a child does NOT attend lessons (either in school or remotely) for a sustained period of time, with no communication from parents, then they will be reported to the Local Council, and the place they have in school may be withdrawn.

Some of the children that have gone abroad, haven't been uploading work or attending live lessons and we have no return date for these children. This is a safeguarding concern. Therefore, I have laid out clear expectations for the children below:

1. If a child is on holiday but we have a return date and they are completing work and attending live lessons then this is acceptable.
2. If a child is not attending lessons, we have no contact with parents and we have a concern around that child's safety we will follow our safeguarding policy.
3. If your child is on holiday, please make sure you are in contact with school, on a weekly basis to keep us informed with your plans for returning. This can be done via Dojo, Email, text or telephone call.

If any family does want to go abroad, they need to follow the same process as if their child was attending school under normal conditions. Please complete a holiday form, with the dates you are wishing to travel, but most importantly we need a return date so we can ensure your child's safety and education.

I understand that this is a difficult time for everyone, however, I want to stress that we need clear communication from all parents regarding holidays, and for families to continue to follow social distancing rules when they return to keep the Eastwood community safe.

The best advice I can give all families at present is to stay safe and at home as this will help us know where children are and it will also ensure that you and your children aren't unnecessarily exposed to the virus or new variants of it.

As always, thanks for your support and stay safe.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Tankard'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I' and a stylized 'Tankard'.

Mr I Tankard  
Head teacher