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Dear Parent/Carer

**Attendance at school and legal intervention**

I am writing to let you know about some changes in the law regarding school attendance.

You will be aware that the law requires all parents to ensure that their child attends school regularly. Research has shown that children often do not catch up on work missed, which can have serious consequences for their learning and progress. The Government is very clear that all schools must aim to have the highest attendance possible for all of their pupils in order for them to achieve their maximum potential.

The Local Authority has introduced a system where any pupil who has an attendance of 85% or less with at least 15% unauthorised absence over a 6 week period or 10 consecutive sessions unauthorised absence will meet the criteria for legal intervention which could be in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Starting from 4<sup>th</sup> November any pupil in West Earlham Junior School who meets either criteria, will be referred to the Local Authority for action to be considered.

If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued it is a fine of £60 per parent per child which must be paid in one payment in 21 days, if unpaid a further invoice for £60 per parent per child is issued, both individual invoices would then have to be paid making a total payment of £120 in 28 days. Failure to pay the total amount within the timescale will result in legal action being taken.

We know that at West Earlham Junior nearly all our families already make sure their children are in school every day and on time. We thank you for this. Our aim is to work with all our families to ensure that our pupils receive the most from their education and I hope we can count on your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Parry-Jones

Headteacher

**WORKING TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING THE DIFFERENCE**

