

## **Holidays in School Time**

Parents are reminded that rules on holidays in term-time are still in force and the law has not changed. Barnet's Education Welfare Team will continue to issue fixed-penalty notices (FPNs) to parents who take children out of school without leave when schools and academies request them.

The Education Welfare Team visits some family homes when it appears that children have been taken out of school before the end of the summer term. Where parents tell us that their children are ill, an Education Welfare Officer would expect to find those children being cared for at home. If this is not the case, parents should expect to receive FPNs once their children are back in schools, unless they can explain their circumstances.

The arguments about holidays are sometimes in the news and individual stories can create misleading pictures. Parents can best support their children and their school by abiding by the rules. Education is not free: it is paid for by taxpayers, including teachers, parents and people without children. Head teachers are required to apply rules firmly and fairly and are held to account by government. It is therefore much appreciated if all parents act responsibly and plan holidays and family visits when school is closed.