



31st January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Polling days and term dates

As you may know, The Ferns Primary Academy is used as a polling station for both local and general elections and national referendums.

To minimize disruption to school life and childcare arrangements the school and electoral office have arranged to use one of our secured Year 5 classes for the election. This means that the school will be **open to all children** on **Thursday 3rd May 2018** and on future election dates.

I am also able to confirm school opening dates for 2018 – 2019 – they are on the back of this letter.

Please take note of the holidays for the summer term and next year. Term time holidays can only be granted permission in special (and rare) circumstances.

What does the law say about school holidays?

All children of compulsory school age – between 5-16 – must receive a suitable full-time education. As a parent, you are responsible for ensuring that this happens. Once you have registered your child at a school, you are also legally responsible for ensuring that your child attends school regularly. If you fail to do this legal action can be taken against you by the Local Authority. It is a legal offence to fail to ensure your child attends school regularly.

Legal action can involve a penalty notice or being taken to court.

Parents also face the risk of imprisonment and parenting orders. Parenting orders involve attending a counselling and guidance programme, usually a parenting class.

A penalty notice of £60 may be issued as an alternative to prosecution, but this will rise to £120 if it is not paid within 21 days. Failure to pay a penalty notice will usually lead to **prosecution**.

Many thanks for your continued support – I hope the changes to the use of school as a polling station are more convenient for you and your family.

Yours faithfully

J Howard

Mr J Howard
Principal



SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2018-2019

Autumn Term 2018 (74 days)

School Closed	Monday 3 rd September 2018 (<i>InSET</i>)
TERM BEGINS	Tuesday 4 th September 2018
Half Term	Monday 22 nd October to Friday 26 th October 2018
TERM BEGINS	Monday 29 th October 2018
TERM ENDS	Friday 21 st December 2018

Spring Term 2019 (65 days)

TERM BEGINS	Monday 7 th January 2019
Half Term	Monday 18 th February to Friday 22 nd February 2019
TERM BEGINS	Monday 25 th February 2019
TERM ENDS	Friday 12 th April 2019

Summer Term 2019 (51 days)

TERM BEGINS	Tuesday 23 rd April 2019
School Closed	Monday 6 th May 2019 <i>Bank Holiday</i>
Half Term	Monday 27 th May to Friday 7 th June 2019 (2 wks)
TERM BEGINS	Monday 10 th June 2019
School Closed	Friday 28 th June 2019 (<i>InSET</i>)
TERM ENDS	Thursday 18 th July 2019
School Closed	Friday 19 th July 2018 (<i>InSET</i>)

**Autumn Term 2019 begins
Monday 2nd September 2019**