



Truant Text Warning!

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Pre-reading activity:

Read the story below.

Today as I walked past the school I saw a boy who was about 13 years old run out of the school gates as fast as he could. The other children were still in school so I think he was playing truant. He didn't look at me or any other people who were nearby. He kept his face looking straight ahead and ran.

Think about the above story and answer the questions below.

1. Why is the boy running out of school?
2. Where is he going?
3. How is he feeling?
4. Do you think his teacher or parents know what he is up to?
5. What will happen to him at home tonight and at school tomorrow?
6. What happens in Bangladesh if someone is caught playing truant at school?
7. Is it a major problem in Bangladesh?
8. Have you ever played truant at school?

Vocabulary:

Use a dictionary and find the meanings of the below vocabulary.

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|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Truancy | 7. Attendance |
| 2. Absent/absence | 8. Principal |
| 3. Excuse | 9. Secondary school |
| 4. Obtain | 10. Enhance |
| 5. Cut down | 11. Initially |
| 6. Reduce | 12. Punching out |

Preparation for reading:

Read the first paragraph of today's story and think about the questions below.

1. What is text messaging?
2. What is the school doing to stop students from 'playing truant'?
3. What do you think the phrase 'to think twice' means?

Children at a Singapore school will need to think twice about playing truant after a mobile phone text message broadcast system, which automatically alerts their parents started last week.

Now read the story below.

Children at a Singapore school will need to think twice about playing truant after a mobile phone text message broadcast system, which automatically alerts their parents, started last week.

This new system should actually reduce the amount of administrative work for teachers and enhance the home-school links. Teachers will mark the names of absent students in an electronic database. The mobile phone text message of the Short Message Service (SMS) broadcast system, supplied by local technology provider WorldRemind, taps into a database and automatically sends out a message to parents telling them their child is missing from class.

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