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Wednesday 4th September, 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust you've all had a great summer break!

It's exciting to be back for another exciting year of inspired learning. We have lots of plans for this year which promises to be the best yet for all the children (and adults) here at The Prince of Wales School.

A special welcome to our new families, we look forward to getting to know you better over the coming weeks and months.

Term Dates

Please find enclosed term dates for this 2019/2020 Academic Year (as previously shared) and for the first time Term Dates for the 2020/2021 Academic Year.

Please note, the 2020/2021 Academic Year includes a two-week October half-term for children.

PLEASE NOTE - The term dates for 2020/21 have been agreed across the majority of DASP schools, including all middle schools and the Thomas Hardy School, for this particular school year.

Parent Forum 2019/2020

Following the success of our 'Parent Forum' events in the last academic year, we will be continuing this programme throughout the 2019/2020 academic year.

The Prince of Wales School Parent Forum is a half-termly opportunity to meet me (Headteacher) and other members of my Senior Leadership Team. It provides an informal platform to share concerns, discuss ideas and ask questions.



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- PARENT FORUM - 2019/2020 DATES -

Autumn Term One - Friday 6th September 2019

Autumn Term Two - Wednesday 6th November 2019

Spring Term One - Tuesday 7th January 2020

Spring Term Two - Thursday 27th February 2020

Summer Term One - Wednesday 22nd April 2020

Summer Term Two - Monday 1st June 2020

All sessions will run from 08:45am-10:00am in the staff room and training centre. All members of our community are welcome.

Please feel free to catch me any time outside of these meetings. I am usually standing at the front of the school at the beginning and end of the school day. If you would like a more confidential chat, the school office holds my diary and can book an appointment for you.

Attendance

It is important at this time of the year to remember the importance of good attendance. All DASP (Dorchester Area Schools Partnership) schools are working hard this term to promote good attendance and have put common systems in place to work with families when attendance drops below an acceptable level.

As a reminder, if your child has a medical appointment GP/hospital, etc you are required to bring in medical evidence for the office (slip from GP surgery etc) to prove this. At The Prince of Wales School, we celebrate good attendance and will be doing a lot more of this in the future with special 'Outstanding Attendance' certificates being presented in assembly by Mr. Spracklen.

If a child has an attendance level of 90%, they will have missed one day a fortnight in school. Over a school year, this will represent four weeks of absence. If this level of absence was maintained for a five-year period, it would mean half a school year would have been missed.

Here at The Prince of Wales School, we are determined to ensure that all our children have the opportunity to achieve success and have an excellent record of attendance. If we are concerned about a child's attendance, we will talk to parents and write to them to explain our concerns. The school will then monitor the child's attendance expecting to see an improvement. DASP and the Dorset Council (DC) School Attendance Service will be made aware of the school's concerns.

If attendance does not improve sufficiently, you will be invited to a DASP Attendance Panel. This meeting is an opportunity for the school, family and a representative from DC's School Attendance Service to meet

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together to discuss why your child has such a high absence rate and seek solutions to any problems. The Panel can recommend several outcomes, which can include: a further period of close monitoring with specified targets for attendance; issuing a £60 Penalty Notice, a Parenting Order or seeking prosecution which could result in a fine of up to £1000.

The attendance process is designed to identify children with poor attendance quickly and address the issues that are affecting their attendance. When attendance improves, monitoring will continue and, if it falls, the Attendance Process will be resumed. All DASP schools hope that the Attendance Panel will not be needed and that all pupils will have a good record of attendance, are happy and successful and benefit from their time in school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Spracklen', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr. Gary Spracklen - Headteacher