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Wednesday 10th October, 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we have been back to school now for seven weeks! The time has flown by and we've made so much progress already this academic year as well as making lots of special memories together.

I would like to say a big **POW THANK YOU** to everyone that came along on Friday to support our Harvest Assemblies and AutumnFest events. In total £820.00 was raised for the school at AutumnFest - a special thanks to all the volunteers from POWSA who made the event such a success.

Wacky Hair for Hospice Care

TOMORROW - It's your opportunity to let your hair down, up or sideways in aid of your local hospice. Over the last seven years schools, companies and organisations across Dorset have taken part and have helped to raise over £6,000 to help the lives of patients with life-limiting illnesses. **SUGGESTED DONATION = £1.00.**

INSET Day

A reminder that we have an INSET Day this Friday (12th October 2018), school will be closed on this day. Teachers will be using the day to visit West Thornton Primary Academy, Croydon.

West Thornton Primary Academy is an **OUTSTANDING** Teaching School that promotes an innovative approach to the curriculum. Mr. Spracklen and Mrs. Johnson visited the school in January 2018 and are excited to be taking the whole teaching team back for an immersive day of professional development.

Parent Consultation Evenings

A reminder that Parent Consultation Evenings take place next week, please check your classroom for sign-up sheets.

Reception Class

At The Prince of Wales School we believe external scrutiny of our practice is an essential element of our continuous development journey. Recently, Reception Class had a visit from The Dorset County Council EYFS Lead Advisor whose comments included -

Children were observed at the start of the day, separating well from carers and entering in to extremely positive relationships with adults in the classroom. They were keen to share stories from home with these adults and share 'work' they had brought from home. Considering this is children's fourth week at school, this shows that positive relationships have been placed at the heart of children's experience when starting at Prince of Wales.

Children entered an extremely well-organised and stimulating classroom, set up with a very wide range of activities that interested and motivated them.

(EYFS Advisor Visit - October 2018)

We are delighted with the start our Reception Class have made to their learning journey here at The Prince of Wales School. **A big well done to the dedicated staff team who have made this possible.**

Attendance

As I have shared previously, 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.

At the Prince of Wales School, our 'Live Attendance Data' looks like this -

	Attendance (01/09/18 - 09/10/18)
Year 1	98.3%
Year 2	95.7%
Year 3	98.3%
Year 4	98.9%
WHOLE SCHOOL (Year 1 to Year 4)	97.8%

This is an encouraging start to the year. We look forward to building on this together.

As a 'DASP School', The Prince of Wales School is committed to the following '**DASP Attendance Statement**' -

It is essential that children and young people form good habits of regular attendance at school from an early age and that good attendance is maintained throughout their school career, the schools within the Dorchester Area School Partnership (DASP) deem attendance of 95%+ to be good. All DASP Schools are committed to working together to ensure that there is a consistent approach to school attendance and to supporting parents and carers to achieve good attendance for the children and young people in their care. It is a legal requirement that all children should attend their educational provision and it is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure that their children attend school. To ensure this all schools in DASP have agreed the following:

- It is important that pupils are in school on time. Time keeping is not only important in obtaining maximum benefit from education it is also a key skill for adult life. Lateness is monitored by the school and contributes to absence rates.
- Schools will monitor the attendance of pupils and work closely with Dorset County Council's School Attendance Service to support parents and carers, children and young people where attendance levels are causing concern.
- Whilst we understand that children do become ill on occasions, children who lose a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning. If a child's health continues to affect their education, schools are obliged to make a referral to School Health to ensure that appropriate medical advice and support is provided to support good attendance.
- If a child is ill or absent from school it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that they inform the school. DASP schools all operate a targeted "First Day Call" system, which means they will contact you to ask why your child is not in school and when they are expected to return. Please be aware that schools have a duty to safeguard pupils, failure to inform school or respond to a call from school, may result in your child being reported as missing to police or Children's Services.

- Leave of Absence should not be granted during term time, except in exceptional circumstances. The definition of exceptional circumstances are where requests are rare, significant and unavoidable.
- It is essential that any requests for leave of absence for holidays, family events or any other reasons are discussed with your child's Head Teacher prior to the request being made as they cannot be approved unless they are deemed as exceptional circumstances. Any absence which has not been authorised by your child's school will be recorded as "unauthorised". In line with Dorset County Council policy, if a child has 5 days (or 10 sessions) of unauthorised holiday within a period of 12 weeks, a penalty notice of £60 per parent may be issued by Dorset County Council, which if not paid within 21 days will double to £120. If this remains unpaid, parents will be prosecuted in the magistrates' court.

DASP is committed to ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to thrive and achieve and recognises that good attendance is central to this.

Polite Reminder

Parents and carers are politely reminded not to park in the Pre-School or Staff car parks. It causes problems when people do not follow our clear signage and policy, we appreciate your support on this matter.

Year 4 2019/2020 -

Blue jumpers will be continued in Year 4 2019/2020. These will need to be purchased by parents and carers online.

I am sure I will see many of you at the POWSA AGM meeting on Tuesday 6th November (7:30pm).

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries, concerns or if there is anything I can do to help and support you with your child's learning and school life.

I would like to thank you personally for your continued commitment and support towards the staff and children of this school.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Gary Spracklen