



All Saints Primary School

Weekly Parent Email

W/E 14th September 2018

Dear All,

What an enjoyable first full week back at school... packed full of fabulous learning and activities.

Meet and Greet Sessions:

Many thanks for supporting our Meet and Greet sessions, which took place in every class this week. We hope you found them enjoyable and informative. If you were unable to attend but would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or email the office for a copy of the information.

Google Classroom

We are delighted to announce that we have launched our first 'Google Classroom' in Sapphire Class with children being assigned their very own Chromebook as a learning tool. This new technology will enable the children and teaching staff to take full advantage of a digital environment and be seamlessly connected to develop, share and show learning electronically. This initiative is being spearheaded by Mr Grant-Peterkin, who has first hand experience of how successful the 'Google Classroom' can be in engaging children in learning whilst developing IT and typing skills. This is an important investment for the school and we are all looking forward to showcasing this technology to all parents/carers throughout the year.

Attendance

We value good attendance and punctuality in order for all our children to reach their full potential. Most parents and carers share our desire that their children are successful in their learning and there is clear evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement.

Attendance during one school year	equals days absent	Which is this many weeks absent...
95%	9 days	2 weeks
90%	20 days	4 weeks
85%	29 days	5 ½ weeks
80%	40 days	8 weeks
70%	57 days	11 ½ weeks

Any absence affects the pattern of a child's education and disrupts teaching routines, which may affect the learning of others in the same class. Ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is your legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without good reason may result in prosecution.

An Attendance Support Officer, who identifies and addresses any attendance issues, visits Dorset schools once a term. These checks support the school to identify any attendance concerns at an early stage.

Please remember that **holidays in term time** are only approved in very exceptional circumstances. *Holidays taken in term time around crucial assessment times cannot ever be authorised and for this reason no authorisation will be given for holidays in May. A parent/carer must complete an Absence Request Form from the school office when asking for absence to be considered as authorised. If a request is unauthorised and the leave is taken anyway, then Dorset Schools are expected to inform the Local Authority, who may then instigate a Penalty Notice to be issued to each parent of each child. The Penalty Notice is for £60 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days and £120 per parent, per child if paid after this date, but within 28 days. Dorset Education Authority, and not the school will issue the Penalty Notice. The general criteria for the issuing of a Penalty Notice states that one will only be issued to a parent(s) if the pupil would have at least 10, half day unauthorised absences recorded against their name within the previous six months.

As stated above, we closely monitor attendance. An attendance of 90% and below, for whatever reason falls into the 'persistent absence' category, as defined by the Department for Education. Absence at this level is doing considerable damage to a child's educational prospects and needs to be addressed. We wish to ensure that parents/carers realise when their child's attendance rate has dropped to 92%, even if the absence is authorised.

Parent Letters Attached:

- What's on this week W/C 17th September
- Dorset County Council - Children due to start secondary School in Sept 2918
- Starting School for the first time poster

Thank you for your continued support,

With best wishes,

All Saints

PS Again, a reminder that there is a mistake with the INSET date published on Page 2 in the Reading Record. Please note that out INSET date is 21st **December** NOT **September**.