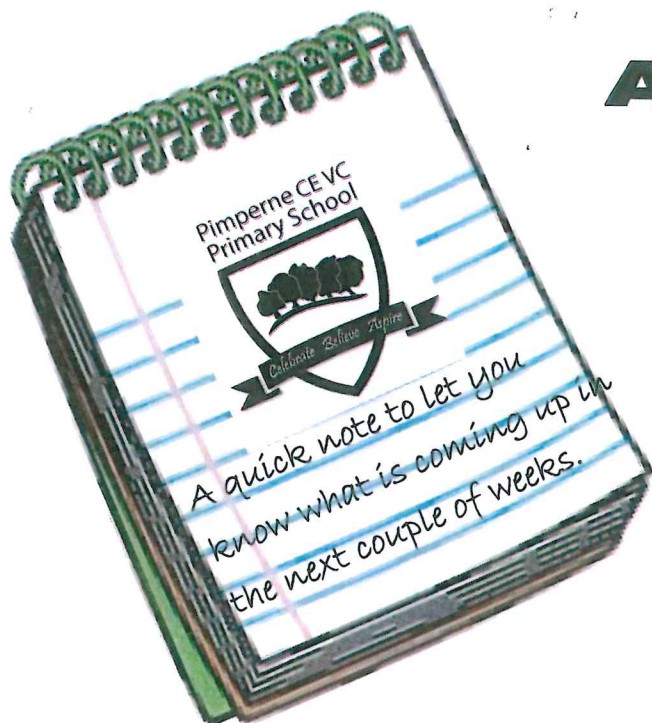


Date: Friday 5th May 2017
A note to say ...

Welcome back to the Summer Term—where has the time gone this year?

Have you seen our amazing knitted blanket? Well done to the knitting club—supported by the band of committed volunteers—for enabling our children to learn a life long skill and create a memory for years to come. Our children have decided that the blanket goes to 'The Grange' in Blandford, where it will be a talking point, I'm sure! It is on display in the entrance hall for the next week, before we deliver it!

If your child would like to join the knitters, our club is now on a Thursday from 3pm-4pm and some spaces remain. It is for both new knitters who will be taught or for experienced knitters who will be supported to follow a pattern and complete a project eg a knitted bag or hat for themselves. A super opportunity as well as a chat and a giggle at the end of a busy day. Please contact the office directly, if your child would like to join.



Attendance Information

We have, at last, some further clarity on **attendance**, following the outcome of the Isle of Wight case. Please be aware that this practice is now current within the Local Authority (since 6/4/17) and that the school's policy will be updated to reflect the following information in due course.

- ⇒ Absence or persistent lateness for **10 or more sessions** (or 10 half days/5 full days), **over a 12 school week period** will trigger a warning, prior to a penalty notice being issued.
- ⇒ Parents / Carers are reminded that they have a **statutory duty to ensure that their child is in education**. This is not a choice but the law. Condoned truancy (such as taking holidays) in the primary years is likely to effect a child's perspective on the importance of and attitude towards education throughout their whole life.
- ⇒ A penalty notice would be **issued 'per child'** that misses out on their education. These are issued by Children's Services—not the school. All attendance registers are uploaded to the Local Authority daily.
- ⇒ For Parents / Carers taking unauthorised holiday in term time, a Penalty Notice may be issued without prior warning.
- ⇒ Legal Action pursuing the Parent / Carer for not ensuring regular education, would follow any unpaid Penalty Notice.

As I have said, over and over, illness cannot be helped, however, the statistics are pulled together to determine a child's overall attendance figures. This is because the National picture indicates that some families have told their schools that their child was ill, when they were on holiday. As you can appreciate this is not helpful and is no longer 'a way around' the statistics. At this school, we advocate the truth to our children, and it is with thanks that I do appreciate our families being honest. It is not big, clever, fun or fair for children to learn that pulling the wool over another's eyes or telling un-truths is okay - it simply isn't okay. Honesty is the best policy.

Finally, at Pimperne Primary, we undertake to work in partnership with our families. However, we do have expectations so that 'our' children are given the best opportunities that we can jointly give them. We do expect our families to support their children in their education. We do expect home learning to happen. We do expect our families to be pro-active in their child's development. We are here to provide the expertise in education, we will gladly support you to support your child in their learning. We are sadly unable to increase the short amount of time that we can help your children - which currently stands at 190 days a year. The rest of the year—**the other 175/6 days are yours**. This shows we are almost equal partners responsible for the education of little people.

SPORTS DAY - 7th July 2017 Definitely 9.30am-12.30pm...Hopefully 1.30pm-2.30pm!

Thank you to those that have asked me for further details about Sports Day. I wish I could be more definite as to our plans!

Due to circumstances beyond our control, unless things change, we will not be able to run traditional competitive races on the school field. In short, the soil has compacted and it is not suitable for this. We are however, arranging to expand the 'sporting activities' (for those of you that have seen it before -) that have taken place on a 'typical' Pimperne Primary sports day. These are fun, family orientated and run in team colours, earning points for the House Cup. **At the moment...**we hope that the afternoon will have an air of individualised competitiveness around it but fall within the limitations that we are currently finding ourselves restricted by. If things change regarding the afternoon activities, we will update you as soon as we can. It may be a different sort of sports day—and not exactly as we would have liked, but we wanted to continue to celebrate and enjoy sporting activities, team work, camaraderie, fair play and 'having a go' by continuing to hold 'a sports day'! We aim to make the best of it and hope that the warmer weather stays and the rain clouds will pass us by! We look forward to welcoming you and all extended families to support your child/ren on the day. The ever-resourceful PTA will soon be advertising how they are supporting the event too. Please keep an eye out in case you can help out.

VERSION 2 of the Dates List is re-issued overleaf! Please swap this with the one that came out earlier this week as it has a few more up to date events.