



5th September 2017

Welcome back to Autumn 2017-2018!

What a super day – but it flew by! The children were their amazing selves within classes and there were lots of smiles. Tales of the holidays subsided and learning was resumed across the school. We aim to establish routines as quickly as we can in order that children ‘know’ what is expected (this usually helps a great deal in settling them.)

I spoke to the children this morning about a change to our Friday afternoons, as we will be moving away from Golden Time. Alongside our eight Pimperne primary School Values and British Values, we will be focusing on effective attitudes to learning by promoting the question ‘**Do you switch on to learning?**’ Children will be rewarded for their consistent approach to a huge variety of aspects that constitute a good learner. This is more than ‘what we do at school’, as it looks at developing children’s skills with others, their resilience and the characteristics and qualities we look for in society today.

We hope, that we will have your full support in this, and I will soon be advertising an information meeting which lays out some of the reasons behind this shift for the benefit of our children as they make advancing steps into the wider world. For the time being, you will find further information in our **Year Group Handbooks**, these will be given out at the year group parent meetings in the next couple of weeks, or sent home to you if you are not able to attend.

This year, we are also promoting ‘**activity**’ in the mornings. We very much hope that our Year 6 will lead a Wake and Shake session, in the morning from 8.30-8.40am on Mondays and Fridays on the playground. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Mr Roberts will have set up a ‘morning mile challenge’ on the games court for children to attempt if they would like, and on a Wednesday there will be a challenge led by Mr McCarthy who has volunteered his time. Participants are fine in their school uniform, if children would like to wear trainers this is fine, but we ask that they plan ahead and take them home the night before and arrive in them. Access to school for shoe changes will not be encouraged. It is only a brief 10 minute activity each morning but we hope the children will see its benefits for the opportunity to develop a healthy attitude towards not only physical activity but also challenge. Parents are very welcome to support our Year 6’s in joining in with the Wake and Shake routines!

Extra-Curricular Activity Clubs will be offered this Autumn Term and we are finalising a list of voluntary clubs both from staff and community, in addition to our external partners Step Into Sport and Champions Football. We hope this list will be out to you by Friday 8th September.



Breakfast Club and our (soon to be named) **After school Club** have both begun offering their fantastic provision and it was great to see so many smiling faces tucking heartily into Breakfast this morning.

Overflow Car Park work is soon to be completed, we then await advice as to how long we need to leave the groundworks and seeding to settle and take root! Over the holidays, many interior jobs were crossed off the 'snagging list', there are still a few to finish (a hole in the roof letting in water etc) however, many others are very nearly sorted.

School Money System – I always understand that new systems can be a trial, but I thank you for your perseverance. The Admin team are always willing to help you, so please contact them if you are having difficulties logging on to your account. All login details were sent out with information about the payment system last term. If yours have gone astray please just email in or speak to the School Office Staff and they will help. Most of the Blandford Network uses either the same system or a similar one now, in order that we can provide the experiences, provision or opportunities that we want to for our children. We thank you for helping in this.

In the mornings – you will find that a member of the **leadership team** is on the crossing on the school drive, please feel free to stop and chat with them. For the most part, I will be found in and around the playground so once again please come and talk. There is a wealth of experience within the leadership team and our role is a combined one to get things right for our school. The leadership team meet daily to ensure your thoughts are passed on. "It's good to talk!"

With a few exceptions much of our **correspondence** will be coming out via email to you, in order that we save the forests and watch the pocket. However, if there is anything that you would like a hard copy of, please contact the School Office. Our website has had a bit of a shuffle and there will be lots of individual class information appearing across the terms. The school calendar is beginning to be populated and will be a useful reference point for you to know what's coming up.

To finish - my quote for the day that made me smile was "**I love this class, the view from the window is amazing!**"

I need to stop typing now to get this on a print run. What a great day!

Best wishes for now.

Yours

Mrs F Waller