



# SHILLINGSTONE C.E. V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

GROWING TOGETHER · TOGETHER WE LEARN

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Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

## Dates for diaries:

### **WoW Write**

The dates for the Wow Writing this term are:

There are no more WOW writes this term.

### **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

Arts and drama week linked to the whole school production

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July**

School PTA Summer Fair 12-3pm

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

Transition day

### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

Sports Day (back-up day Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July)

### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

1:30pm and 6pm – Whole School Production – Cinderella and Rockerfella

### **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

Year 6 leavers' service and last day of term

Dear parents/carers,

### **Attendance figures**

Whole school attendance from September to today: **96.08 %**

Please remember that term time holiday cannot be authorised by the headteacher.

Current attendance figures for Summer term 2<sup>nd</sup> half are:

Jungle Class – **96.22%**

Woodland Class – **94.88%**

Ocean Class – **91.48%**

Desert Class – **97.78%**

### **Attendance really does matter!**

Sadly, more and more parents are taking their children out of school for a term time holiday in our school which is having a huge impact on our whole school attendance figure. Our school attendance figure is now well below the national expectation and continues to go down. This is despite the fact that no holidays are authorised and letters are issued to all parents whose children's attendance has dipped below 95% (concern category) and then below 90% (persistent absentee). The Attendance Officer has been involved with many families this year and sadly penalty notices have had to be issued.

As a school, we want every child to reach their full potential. Please be aware that children, who have a 10 day holiday in term time every year, miss two terms of school-work during their school career, which is two-thirds of a year. Research shows that children and young people who have a history of absence from school achieve less well than good attenders. Attendance really does matter!

Attendance will be a line of enquiry that OFSTED will inspect and could be a deciding factor in our school's overall judgement. It would be very sad to see our school move into a 'Requires Improvement/Inadequate' category because parents continue to take their children out on term time holiday.

**School PTA Summer Fayre – This Saturday!**

We will be holding the school Summer Fayre this Saturday between 12-3pm. Please come along to support this event – all the proceeds go towards the school.

We have fewer helpers that have come forwards to support with running the Summer Fayre this year. If you are able to help set up/run a stall/tidy up – your help would be much appreciated, even an hour would be helpful! Please speak to Mrs Netherway or Mrs Oakley if you are able to come along and help in any way.

We also would be grateful to receive cakes for our cake stall. Everyone loves homemade cakes and they can be dropped off at school on Friday or Saturday morning. Thank you for your help.

**Year 4,5 & 6 Bikeability**

All children in Year 4, 5 and 6 have had a letter sent home offering a Bikeability place. Please ensure that you return the permission slip and money (if applicable) to the office before Monday.

Year 4 will be taking part on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July between 9.15am and 12 noon in the front playground. Year 5 & 6 will be taking part on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July all day. Please ensure your child brings their bike and helmet on the days they are involved.

**Year 5 / 6 Sporting Challenge Day at Sturminster Newton High School**

Letters about this event have gone home to parents of Year 5 / 6 children. Please remember to return the permission slip into the school office in good time. This is a fantastic day and is a transition event for the children – they will get the opportunity to work in teams with other Year 5 / 6 children from the Pyramid. We hope the children enjoy the day.

**Year 3 / 4 Singing day and Year 5 Arts day**

Letters have gone home to parents of Year 3 / 4 children for the singing day and Year 5 parents for the arts day. Please remember to return the permission slips into the school office in good time.

**Transition Day – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

During this day, all of the children will have the opportunity to move up to their new year group and work with the class they will be in when we come back in September.

Children in Year 6 who are transferring to SNHS in September should catch the bus to the High School at their designated stop. Please remember to take a copy of your eligibility letter (bus to school eligibility letter) in order to get free transport.

**Maypole Day Nursery open day**

Maypole Day Nursery will be holding an open day on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August between 1-4pm.

### Spiritual Garden by Rachel Oakley

Work on the Spiritual Garden got under way on the 17th and 18th of June. It was a steaming hot weekend but thanks to a number of parents in the school we completed a large proportion of the initial heavy works required to give structure to the garden. On Saturday 8th July we will be building the curved seat out of blockwork. If there are any parents who have skills in this area and can spare a few hours, your expertise would be gratefully received. There will be the opportunity for children to get involved with the garden (digging and planting) in school time and over a working weekend, dates to be confirmed.

All the incredible fundraising the children did last term has made a huge difference to what is going to be possible in the garden. Thank you so much for all the effort you put in and to everyone who sponsored the children.

Watch this space for future updates!



Yours sincerely,

Mrs J. Whitehouse-Sharpe



