

**Exciting News!:** From Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 we will be able to offer a **DAILY** after school provision. Please see a letter, on the back of this Thursday Note, from Vin Callan with more details and information about how to register and book. Please contact Vin if you have any questions.

**Rotary Young Photographer of the Year 2017:** The theme for this year's competition is "**A Different Perspective**". Entrants submit three photographs, in black and white or colour, along with a description of the inspiration for their photographs. The Rotary Club would be delighted if children aged 7 and above entered. The date for the judging of the competition is provisionally set for 27<sup>th</sup> November and will be in Rook Lane Arts Chapel. Photographs may be taken with any type of camera including mobile phone cameras. Please let us know if you are interested in submitting an entry and collect an entry form and information from our School Office.

We monitor attendance every day through our electronic registers and send a text to all parents who have not informed us of the reasons for their child's absence. Parents need to respond to the text otherwise the absence is recorded as unauthorised.

- If your child is absent from school, the School Office **must** receive a telephone call or verbal message from the child's parents giving the reason otherwise they are marked as absent without authorisation.
- If your child is unwell with a minor illness such as a cough, cold or mild headache they should still attend school. If they come to school staff will contact you if they feel worse during the day.
- The registers are monitored weekly by my Attendance Officer and myself for **attendance** and **lateness**.
- Letters are sent out termly to inform parents if their child's attendance has fallen below our threshold.
- If attendance or punctuality continues to be an issue then parents are invited to a meeting with me. A child with attendance below 90% is considered to be a persistent absentee.
- Any record which is a cause for concern may be referred to the Education Welfare Officer -Dee Edwards.
- Our school doors are open from 8.45 am. Children must be in school for registration at 8.55 am each day. If they are going to be late for any reason, we should receive a message. Please note that any child who enters school after 9.10 am will have an unauthorised absence mark for that morning.
- Term time leave is only granted in **very, very exceptional** circumstances and must be applied for in advance using the forms outside the School Office. **Family holidays are not included in this and an unauthorised absence will be recorded on the register if holidays are taken in term time.**
- Unauthorised absences are recorded on children's attendance records when we do not receive an acceptable explanation. This will include absences for any other reason than authorised term time leave or sickness. Somerset Local Authority Education Welfare Service have issued guidance stating that any child of statutory school age with 10 or more unauthorised sessions (5 days) within a period of 12 weeks may need to be referred to the Education Welfare Officer and a Penalty Notice process commences which may result in a fine.

#### VSA News

**Uniform Shop:** The Uniform Shop will be open tomorrow from 2:45pm in the room opposite the School Reception - second-hand uniform can be bought or swapped. We also accept Selwood or Oakfield uniform, so if you have any that you would like to donate or swap please leave it with the School Office or drop it in on Friday.

**Cake Sales:** Galaxy class will have their sale tomorrow from 2:45pm outside the KS2 playground. Next week is the turn of Voyager Class.

#### Dates for your Diary 2017

- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October - Galaxy Class Cake Sale
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October - Voyager Class Cake Sale
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October - Harvest Festival at 2pm at Trinity Church
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October - School Photos
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October - last day of school before half term holidays
- **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October - INSET DAY** Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October - back to School

**Harvest Festival:** Will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm at Trinity Church. Please bring any dried or tinned food (that are in date), particularly tinned spaghetti and baked beans, long-life milk, tinned fruit and jam to your child's classroom by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Many thanks in advance for your generosity.