

September 2019 Admissions to Reception classes: This year Somerset County Council will not be sending out Starting School packs. Information is online and applications will need to be made on line. Please go onto the Somerset County Council website and search for starting school. You will need to register to set up a password. Please let your friends and neighbours know about this change. Parents interested in having a tour of the school should phone the School Office to make an appointment 01373 462657.

Information meetings for KS1 and KS2 parents: Our Key Stage 1 and 2 phase leaders, Mrs Molloy and Mr Summers are asking all Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 parents to try to attend one of two information meetings to find out about the changes that have happened in KS1 and KS2- either on Thursday 20th September at 9.00am or Tuesday 25th September at 2.15pm. Please come along to the School Hall.

Reminder about term-time holidays: The Frome Schools have a very strict policy about term time leave in line with Somerset County Council and National guidance and family holidays and activities should be planned within the 13 weeks school holidays. Term time leave is only granted in **very, very exceptional** circumstances and must be applied for in advance using the forms available from the School Office. **Unfortunately cheaper family holidays are not included in this and an unauthorised absence will be recorded on the register if holidays are taken in term time. This absence may result in a fine which must be paid by each parent/carer. Further Attendance information is found on the back of this Thursday Note.**

Curriculum overviews: Our curriculum topic webs will be on the back of next week's Thursday Note.

Open Evenings for Frome Schools:

5.30-8.00pm Thursday 20th September for Frome College

Middle Schools:

Open Day Thursday 13th September for Oakfield

Open evening Tuesday 18th September for Selwood

Year 4 Osmington Bay Trip (Monday 4th March -

Wednesday 6th March 2019): A reminder to the parents of our Year 4 children that this trip needs to be paid for in full by February half term (ie. 14th February 2019). Please bring your payments along to the school office. You can ask for a payment card to keep track of your progress if you would like one.

The Toy Library needs your help! Frome Toy Library is a non-profit service which supports local families by allowing access to a huge range of high quality toys and games together with twice weekly stay and play sessions. Current funding for the service runs out at the end of the month - can you help it keep going? The Toy Library has been working hard to find more grant funding but there is so much competition that the service is now facing the possibility of closure. The Toy Library are calling out to local people and businesses to ask if they can become a sponsor and help keep the service going. If they can find 100 people who are able to give £5 per month in sponsorship, the service can be run for a whole year! Becoming a sponsor is easy - go to www.fromechildrensfestival.org and find the Toy Library page to give a regular donation. In return you will receive a Toy Library badge, certificate and free membership of the service (if your donation is more than £10).

Dates for your Diary 2018

Monday 24th September - After School Clubs start

Thursday 20th September - KS1 & 2 Parents Information Meeting at 9am in the Hall

Tuesday 25th September - KS1 & 2 Parents Information Meeting at 2.15pm in the Hall

Friday 12th October - EYFS Family Learning (Reading)

Tuesday 16th October - Harvest Festival at 9.30am - Trinity Church

Friday 19th October - VSA Disco

Tuesday 23rd October - Parents' Evening - early

Wednesday 24th October - Parents' Evening - late

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION - SEPTEMBER 2018

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. Please ensure we have an up-to-date phone number to put on the texting system.

- 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. If they have been vomiting or have had diarrhea then they should not attend school for 24 hours after the last time they vomited or had diarrhea. If there is a high level of a sickness we may extend this to 48 hours.
- 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 Attendance Service.
- 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 (15minutes late) will have an unauthorised absence mark for that morning unless they have been for a medical or dental appointment.
- 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.