**Newsletter 20.04.18**

**Welcome back**

**I hope that you have all managed to have a positive and restful break and are now happy to be back to the usual routine. This term is always a busy and exciting one with lots to look forward to.**

**Class curriculum letters**

**If you have not already received them you will be getting a class curriculum letter which outlines the areas of focus for the term and what each class will be getting up to.**

**Attendance**

**Attendance in the school at the moment is not as good as it could be. There are always many reasons for this, particularly in a school where many of our young people can be very ill at times. However, recognising this has provided us with a good opportunity to review what we do to ensure that attendance can be as good as possible. As part of this process can I please remind you that the school is unable to authorise holiday or absence during term time unless there are specific reasons of exceptional circumstances as to why this needs to happen. This is particularly the case where a pupil already has low attendance. If your child does need time out of school can you please ensure that the relevant form is completed via the office and signed off prior to taking your child out of school. Where your child has high absence and this is something that has already been discussed with the school you may find that you receive a letter from the school identifying this. Although this in itself should not necessarily be seen as a cause for concern, it is usually the beginning of a process to see how we can work more closely together to improve attendance moving forward. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.**

**Additional key dates for your diary**

Please check the key dates section of the newsletter for any new or additional dates you may not have been aware of. We will also be publishing sports day date very soon once it has been confirmed.

**Wiltshire’s Draft Placements Commissioning Strategy 2017-2022 Consultation Sessions**

Wiltshire Parent Carer Council will be inviting **parent carers of children / young people aged 0-25 years with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND)**to attend a consultation session to find out more about Wiltshire’s Placements Commissioning Strategy.  There will be a brief outline of the strategy by the Lead Commissioner and the opportunity to offer your views on the placements needs for children and young people and the proposed commissioning priorities.

**What is the strategy about?** - The strategy covers any placement that Wiltshire Council makes for a child or young person with a commissioned provider both in Wiltshire and in other local authority areas which includes:

**\*Independent fostering agency placements for looked after children & young people**

**\*Residential group-living placements for looked after children**

**\*Independent special school placements for children & young people with SEND (incl. post-16)**

**\*Accommodation & support placements for care leavers**

**\*Independent specialist placements for young people with SEND post-16**

**When are the consultations?**

**Monday May 21st 2018 – Salisbury** (Salisbury and South Wiltshire Sports Club, Skewbridge, Wilton Road, Salisbury **SP2 9NY**) 10am-12.30pm

**These consultations are for parent carers only and the booking form will be open within the next week.  Booking information should be available in the next week.**

**If you are unable to attend any of Wiltshire Parent Carer Council’s consultation sessions, you can still email your answers to the consultation questions contained in the strategy document to**pathways@wiltshire.gov.uk. The consultation period runs until **9th June 2018**.

Key Dates:

**Friday 20th April** - parent and carers support group

**Wednesday 2nd May** 6.00-7.00pm – Parent workshop – Behaviour

**Friday 18th May** - parent and carers support group

**Wednesday 20th June** 6.00-7.00pm – Parent workshop - Puberty/Growing Up

**W/b 11th June** – Exam week for Y11 and Y14 at the vocational centre

**Wednesday 13th June** – Kids day out

**Friday 22nd June** 9:00am – 10:30am – parent and carers support group

**W/b 2nd July** – Residential trip to Wales

**Friday 20th July** 9:00am – 10:30am - parent and carers support group

**Friday 20th July** – School Prom

**Wednesday 25th July (pm)** – Leavers assembly