

Autumn 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all the staff at Pilsley Primary we would like to welcome you all back to the new school year. It only seems like yesterday that we were saying goodbye to our old Year 6 and now we are welcoming our new Nursery children who start their journey through our school.

Parent Governors

We have sent out with this newsletter Parent Governor election forms. These are standard forms that can be a little daunting in the way they are written. The role of Governor in school plays a key part in overseeing the educational development of the school including staff and pupils as well as the helping to ensure the schools provides best value financially. Having a parent perspective on the Governing Body helps the school to maintain its place in the local community and to take all views in to consideration when decisions are made. If you feel that you would like to make a positive contribution to the school then please complete the forms enclosed. If you are unsure then please contact Mr Snape or a current Governor and they will talk you through the role and the commitment it requires.

Mrs Shore

As we informed you earlier in the year Mrs Shore is due retire at the end of next week. We will be holding a goodbye assembly for her on Friday, 22nd September at 2pm if any parents would like to attend. Though we do not usually hold collections for staff, we have been approached by a number of parents who have asked about the possibility in Mrs Shore's case. Therefore, anyone that would like to make a contribution can do so through the school office.

Holidays during Term Time

We wrote to you before the summer break letting you know that the 'holiday' test case has fallen in favour of the Government and the Local Authority in question (Isle of Wight). **Therefore, it is now the case that Derbyshire County Council will consider a fixed penalty notice for any period of holiday absence that has not been authorised by the school.**

The school now has a revised attendance policy available on line on our website and we would urge all parents looking towards requesting term time absence to seek this out first here:

<http://www.pilsleyprimary.co.uk/about-us/key-information/school-policies>

The basis of the new policy is that any request for absence in school term time will only be approved in circumstances that are regarded as **'exceptional'** and each one will be looked at individually. Where the absence is not approved and the holiday is still taken then this will be forwarded to Derbyshire County Council for consideration of a fixed penalty notice. Current high levels of attendance are no longer a factor. This is the same for all schools.

Issues over holiday absence not being approved are a cause of friction between all schools and parents. It regularly puts schools in a difficult position but please understand that we have to follow the guidance to ensure fairness and consistency.

Harvest Festival

The school will be holding a Harvest Festival this term on October 6th at 10.30 in the Church.

Diary Dates / School Events

20 th September	Choir visit to Sharley Park School
21 st September	Tempest School Individual Photos
4 th October	Choir visit to Tupton Hall School
6 th October	Harvest Festival
11 th October	Choir visit to Tupton Hall School
12 th October	Year 2/3 Creswell Craggs School Trip
16 th October	Mike Molloy Author Visit
18 th October	Choir Performance @ Winding Wheel
20 th October	Last day of term
30 th October	Pupils return to school
19 th December	Last day of term

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2 nd January	INSET Day
3 rd January	Pupils return to school
16 th February	Last day of term
26 th February	Pupils return to school
23 rd March	Last day of term
9 th April	Pupils return to school
7 th May	May Day Bank Holiday (one day)
25 th May	Last day of term
4 th June	Pupils return to school
20 th July	Last day of term