

Newsletter 17 Friday 18th January 2013

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www.sydenhamprimaryschool.co.uk

Dear parents and carers,

School website

Hurrah, our website is now in action! We still have a lot of information to add to it, but we wanted you to know that it has been launched and you can now look at it!

PTA

We had a long and productive PTA meeting on Tuesday evening and our next event is another Cake Break before 'Share a book' afternoon on Friday 8th February-more details to follow. Our next meeting is on Monday 4th March at 9.00am to give more parents the chance to join us. We hope you can put this date in your diary now!

Medical Appointments

Please could you try to make doctors and dentists appointments outside school hours whenever possible as late arrival and interruptions can be disruptive to learning. Thank you.

Uniform

Please could you make sure that your child is wearing the full school uniform and always has her/his P.E kit. Thank you.

Breakfast Club and Butterflies

In order to ensure the smooth running of Breakfast and Butterfly Clubs and to make sure that children are safely where they are supposed to be, it is important that places are booked and monies are paid in advance. Thank you in anticipation of your usual support.

















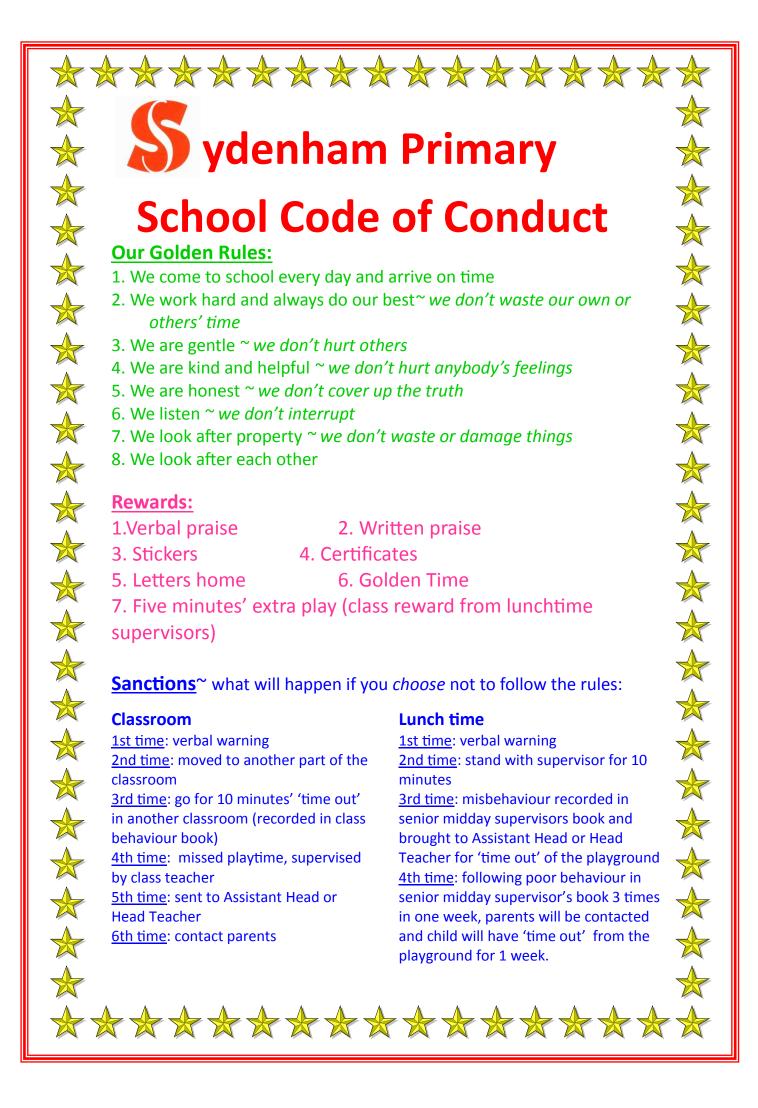














Application for Leave of Absence for a School Pupil for an Annual Family Holiday



Some parents arrange family holidays during term time, which leads to problems for all concerned:

Your child's education suffers

Absence, Circular 10/99)

- Lessons and extra~curricular activities are missed
- Continuity of project work is lost
- There is often no opportunity for teachers to set additional work ot to assist a child in catching up on their return from holiday
- The class is generally disrupted, and other pupils suffer as a result
- You may be in breach of your legal obligation to send your child to school

There is a common misconception that any pupil is allowed to take 10 days holiday per academic year in term time. This is not strictly true. Parents are entitled to ask for leave of absence of up to 10 school days for an annual holiday, and this **may** be authorised by school. Only in exceptional circumstances can any more than 10 days be granted. The Department for Education (DfE) expects us to actively discourage all holidays in term time. (School Attendance ~ Policy and Practice on Categorisation of

Any request for holiday absence in the same academic year will automatically be refused, save in *exceptional circumstances*.

Important Information for Parents and Carers:

- There is no automatic right to absence for a family holiday.
 Authorisation will depend on current attendance record.
- Requests for leave of absence should be sent to the school no less than 6 weeks prior to the start of the holiday.
- Authorisation durng SATs (including mock exams) and in the first term of any new school placement is not likely to be granted.
- Any requests for extended leave, i.e. more than 10 school days, will result in an interview with the head teacher to look at options for ensuring continuity of education.
- A holiday request form MUST be completed by the parents / carers before requests will be considered.
- Unsatisfactory attendance levels will be referred to the Education Social Worker, and may lead to parents / carers incurring a penalty.

