



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

# SUMMERLEA C.P. SCHOOL

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*'Growing thoughtful learners and independent thinkers'*



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a very busy but positive first few weeks back at school with lots to celebrate. All the staff have been so impressed with the way the children have settled back into school and taken the new routines and expectations in their stride. I have really particularly enjoyed seeing WW2 Evacuees, Superheroes and Forest Schoolers arriving at school, and it is great that new topics and learning journeys have got off to such exciting starts!

I have decided that in light of the current circumstances, rather than sending out a newsletter in the format used in previous years, I will write to you on a roughly fortnightly basis with any updates, news and events as I have been doing more recently. All letters of this nature will be available to view via our website by visiting <https://www.summerlea.w-sussex.sch.uk/> > News and Events > Newsletters.

We will continue to keep our website calendar updated so please do regularly check in here for details of key dates and events as well as keeping an eye out for separate letters.

## Curriculum Guides and Homework

Curriculum Guides for all year groups were published on Monday this week and provide key information about this half term. They were sent electronically via ParentMail and are also available to download from our website by going to Our School > Curriculum & Assessment > Curriculum Booklets. Hard copies are available from the main foyer. Homework/home-learning activities were sent home in hard copy via your child on the same day. Copies were also sent electronically via ParentMail and are available on our website by going to Learning Zone > How to help > Homework and selecting the relevant year group. Again, hard copies are available from the main foyer. Please do photograph any homework your child completes and upload it to their portfolio on Class Dojo!

## The start and end of the school day

The new system of dismissing Year 1 children from the external doors which lead out onto the Key Stage 1 playground seems to be working well and has helped reduce congestion outside the Key Stage 1 and EYFS classrooms. As such, we will be keeping this in place.

Several parents have asked whether it is possible to open the Worthing Road gate to help further alleviate congestion both on the school site and outside of the school. Unfortunately, this



is not possible for two reasons. Firstly, we would need at least one member of staff (and ideally two) to act as a marshal in this area of the school to ensure people did not go against the one-way system or cut across the field. We simply do not have any more staffing capacity to allow for this. Secondly, we currently have a risk assessment in place with the West Sussex Safeguarding Team and Police to ensure the safety of our pupils by ensuring there is only one way in and out of the school. I would therefore like to reiterate what I said in my previous letter about everyone needing to take responsibility for doing the right and sensible thing beyond the school gates, whether this means taking an alternative route to/from school, standing back and waiting or crossing over.

To further help ease congestion at bottle necks and pinch points around the school site, we are staggering entry and holding people back every so often. You can help us by arriving at your child's designated drop off/pick up time wherever possible, and respecting and following any instructions you are given. If you have a concern, please come and speak to me - all marshals are acting under my direction to ensure the safety of our whole school community.

Parents (and children) are very welcome to wear face coverings when coming and going from the school site. If children wear facemasks to school, they will need to remove them once in school and they should either be disposed of or kept in a re-sealable named plastic bag.

#### When to keep your child/ren off school

If your child is well enough to attend school and not displaying any of the possible symptoms of Coronavirus, they can come to school. If they are unwell enough to need Calpol (or similar) then please be mindful that this could mask a temperature and so they should stay at home.

The Department for Education state the following:

If your child has: a runny nose, is sneezing or feeling unwell but they do not have a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste, they are not normally symptoms of Coronavirus. Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial 111 or see your GP.

If your child has a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste, this could be a sign of Coronavirus. Book a test and keep them at home. Your household should self-isolate for 14 days but neither you nor your family need to book a test unless you display symptoms.

Public Health England has produced a letter for school (attached) to share with parents which explains when a child requires a Coronavirus (COVID-19) test and what the symptoms of Coronavirus are.

#### NHS App

The new NHS COVID-19 app launched yesterday. It allows you to report symptoms, order a Coronavirus test and check into venues by scanning a QR code. Our school is now a registered venue and posters with the QR code are displayed in the front office.

#### Remote Education

We are in the process of finalising our plans for Remote Education following our parent survey and consultation with teachers. We look forward to sharing this with you shortly. We would utilise this should a child need to self-isolate due to someone in their household displaying symptoms, in the event of us having to close-down a year group bubble or in the event of a local or national lockdown.

Linked to this, the government has made it clear that partially closing primary schools again will be a last resort. Should this happen, however, we would follow Department for Education

guidance at the time - we are currently unable to reserve places for children whose parents are key workers.

### Volunteers

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions and our own risk assessment, we are unable to have volunteers in school to support with things such as reading. We are trying to minimise the number of visitors to school during the school day for the safety of our school community. I am sorry for any disappointment this causes and we hope that later in the school year this will be possible once again.

### Staffing news

Mr Anderson has made the decision to step down from his middle leadership role this year to allow him to commit more time to his family. He will continue as Year 6 Class Teacher. I would like to thank Mr Anderson for all he has contributed to our leadership team during his time in post. You will remember that in my last letter I informed you that Mr Burrows had also decided to relinquish his middle leadership role. This now leaves us with a significant gap on our leadership team and whilst we look to put arrangements in place, Mrs Strong (Deputy Headteacher) will be leading the whole of Key Stage 2. Thank you to Mrs Strong for taking on this additional responsibility – I know she is enjoying working with the team and will provide stability at this time of change.

We are pleased to have appointed two new Individual Needs Assistants who will join our fantastic team of Learning Support Assistants supporting children with special and additional needs across the school. Welcome to Miss Kirby Misselbrook and also Mrs Isabel Logan (who we recently appointed as a Midday Meals Supervisor).

### After School Care Club (ASCC)

We are delighted to have successfully re-opened ASCC this week, albeit with a slightly new look! Thank you to the ASCC team for ensuring things have run safely and smoothly. If you are interested in your child attending ASCC then please contact the office. We are currently having to limit numbers and as such it is harder for us to accommodate last minute requests.

Mrs Ray has decided to resign from her role as ASCC Assistant but will be continuing her Midday Meal Supervisory position. We are in the process of recruiting a new ASCC Assistant and Mrs Ray has kindly said she will remain in post until we have done so.

### Fundraising Facilities – School Angel and Astra Recycling

Why not raise money for the school whilst you shop online? We are registered with School Angel – a charity that will help us raise money for our school through online shopping. We have already raised more than £1,000 which was spent on new books for classrooms and the library last year. Examples of online shopping sites that can be used through School Angel are John Lewis, M&S, Argos, John Lewis, PC World, The Entertainer, Waterstones, Dunelm, B&Q, The National Trust and many more. School Angel is really easy to use and our school has its own charity page already set up which you can visit using this link:

<http://www.schoolangel.org.uk/summerleacommunity-primary-school.html> You can also visit via our own school website, where we have set up an icon called 'School Angel' which can be found under: Our School > Fundraising > School Angel.

We also have a clothing bank by the gates to the KS1 playground. By clearing your closet, you can help raise funds for our school. Items that can be put in the clothing bank are as follows: Men's Wear, Women's Wear, Children's Wear, Paired Shoes, Handbags and Bags, Wallets and Purses, Belts and Accessories, Bed Sheets, Pillow Cases, Duvet Covers, Towels, Soft Toys, Unused Cosmetics and Perfume, Jewellery.

### Crisp Packet Recycling

Thank you all for collecting so many crisp packets over the last academic year for the Terracycle recycling scheme. Not only has this raised much needed funds for our school but it has also saved thousands of empty crisp packets from ending up in landfill, instead being recycled into useful products. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, we have decided to stop collecting crisp packets in school. If you would still like to take part in this scheme, you can find a local collector on the Terracycle website at <https://www.terracycle.com>

### Loose parts play

Year 1 are developing their outdoor provision for the children and are particularly looking for donations of loose parts such as pallets, tyres, crates, guttering and cable drums. If you might be able to help please speak to one of the Year 1 Team to find out more about exactly what is required before bringing these items into school.

### Reminders

Please remember to send your child to school with a named water bottle (this should only have water in it and not juice or squash), as well as a healthy snack for break time if they require one. Children should also have a waterproof coat in school everyday. They should only be bringing essential items into school. Please ensure items such as trading cards do not come into school.

### National Poetry Day

It is National Poetry Day next **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October** and we are looking forward to celebrating with an exciting day of poetry related activities. The theme this year is 'vision'. In order to celebrate this special event, **we would like the children to bring in one of their favourite poems on the day ready to share with their class**. This could follow the theme of 'vision' or be a poem which they have enjoyed reading in the past. Teachers will also be sharing their favourite poems with the children! We look forward to this special day and thank you in advance for your support.

### Reaching Families Parent Support Groups and West Sussex Mind Training

We are lucky to be working with Reaching Families, a parent/carers charity with the aim to empower, inform and support parents and families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex. Reaching Families are offering a range of resources and training workshops for parents and carers to access, regardless of whether your child has a diagnosis or not. For more information, visit their website at <https://www.reachingfamilies.org.uk>

In addition, Mind are offering a range of online workshops for people living and working with children and young people in West Sussex, and details about these were sent out to all parents/carers via ParentMail yesterday.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and patience, and I wish you all a good weekend.

Yours sincerely

*Helen Morris*

Mrs Helen Morris  
Headteacher