



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

SUMMERLEA C.P. SCHOOL

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'Growing thoughtful learners and independent thinkers'



Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term. It's been a great week in school with lots of memorable learning experiences including: a magical 'woodland wand' discovery in EYFS, Pirate Day in Year 2 and Bikeability week in Year 6.

On Wednesday afternoon this week, the Department for Education (DfE) published new guidance following the Prime Minister's announcement about a second national lockdown as from yesterday. At the time of writing, I am still waiting to hear from the Local Authority but we are already in the process of reviewing our Risk Assessment. Changes have to be implemented by next Monday 9th November and our updated Risk Assessment will be published on our website shortly. Please go to School Information > Covid-19 > Risk Assessments.

There are not many significant changes for primary schools but in order to help everyone we do ask the following:

- wear a face covering when coming onto the school site wherever possible
- only one adult should drop off/pick up your child/dren and older siblings should not come onto the premises
- do not be offended if we ask you to wait outside, rather than come into the office foyer
- stand in the yellow box if speaking to a class teacher
- keep your child/ren under close supervision as you follow the one way system – please do not allow them to run ahead

After School Care Club (ASCC) and other clubs

ASCC remains open and we do have a small number of places still available - please contact the office if you would like to make use of this child-care facility. The new DfE guidance is clear that only clubs operating for the sole purpose of childcare should remain open at this time and so I am pleased I made the decision for other extra-curricular clubs to remain closed this half term, whilst recognising the disappointment this will have undoubtedly caused.

A few reminders and requests

When queuing outside the school at drop off and pick up times, please continue to adhere to social distancing rules. People are queuing in both directions along Windsor Drive and so please be mindful of where the queue merges at the school gates as this is a bit of a pinch point. Please respect the queuing system and do not 'queue' jump in the interest of everyone's



safety. We had a report of some anti-social driving just before half term and a car mounting the pavement. Again, please take care and if you have concerns about traffic or road safety please contact Operation Crackdown: www.operationcrackdown.org. The more people that take the time to lodge a report, the more likely we are to have increased PCSO presence and parking enforcement officers deployed to the area.

Self-isolating

If your child has a temperature of 37.8C or above, a new continuous dry cough and/or loss of taste or smell they must not and cannot be in school. They will need to be tested for Covid-19 and the rest of your household will need to self-isolate until the test result comes back and is negative. I know this can cause frustration and inconvenience, however these are the government guidelines which we are following stringently in order to keep everyone in our school community as safe as possible. If you are unsure about whether or not your child should be in school then please telephone the office and we will be able to advise you. Please also ensure you inform us once you know the outcome of any Covid test. Thank you for your understanding and support.

School trips and visits

Unfortunately, due to the current national lockdown, we are unable to take the children on any offsite visits. This sadly means that the Year 2 Church visits planned for next week will be unable to take place and that the Year 5 trip to the planetarium has also been cancelled. Refunds for the planetarium are being processed and can be collected from the office from next Wednesday 11th November by prior appointment.

Remote Education

We trialled the first 'tier' of our Remote Education plan, for children having to self-isolate, before half term and reviewed it with teachers this week. As a result, we have made two changes. The first being that work will now be uploaded to Class Dojo by 8.30am on Monday each week (rather than the Friday) to allow teachers more time to plan and prepare overviews and resources as necessary. The second change is that EYFS will now produce a fortnightly (rather than weekly) overview as this will better reflect their approach to planning and practice. Towards the end of this term we plan to get some formal feedback from parents, who have had children self-isolating, about Remote Education but in the meantime if you have any comments or questions please do speak to your child's class teacher. Visit our website and go to Our School > Learning Zone > Remote Education to view our updated plan.

Covid-19 Catch up

All schools have been allocated a sum of money from the government to spend on helping children 'catch up' following lockdown and the partial closure of schools last year. We have now devised our 'catch up' plan and you can view this via our website by going to School Information > Covid-19 > Catch Up Plan.

Mrs Refoy

A Beech tree has now been planted in memory of Mrs Refoy, following her sadly passing away last year. The tree is planted just outside the school gates behind the Rustington Parish Council notice board, which should enable pupils, past and present, to visit and remember her. The raising of money for the tree was kindly organised by children who were previously in her Beech class – thank you to all the parents and staff for your donations.

School library project

Our library is moving! Many of you will remember that FOSS has been raising money towards a new library. We are lucky enough to have £3,000 to now spend on the library, which will be located in Ash (next to Palm Studio) in one of our modular units. Mrs Murkin (volunteer librarian) has been working incredibly hard 'behind the scenes' to sort out all of the stock and furniture

and books will be ordered this term, ready for a grand opening in the new year. More information and updates will follow as this exciting project gets underway.

Parent Focus Group survey

Now that our Parent Focus Group model is underway, following two successful 'virtual' meetings, we would like to invite all parents to complete a short survey to help us decide on the future topics for discussion. Please visit our website and go to Our School > School Improvement > Surveys > Parent Focus Group. The purpose of the meetings is to encourage open discussion between parents/carers and school staff. There are opportunities to ask questions, share ideas, and strengthen understanding on a range of specific, pre-determined subjects. Notes from the meetings are published on the school website so even if you can't, or don't wish to attend, you can still find out about what has been discussed. The survey is open now and will close on Friday 20th November. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

Staffing news

I wrote to parents of children in Beech Class earlier this week to let them know that Miss Collis (Year 5 teacher) is sadly leaving at the end of this term due to personal reasons. We will say goodbye to her properly in December but I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all she has contributed to our school and children during her time in post and to wish her all the very best for the future. We are now advertising for a Year 5 teacher and I will let you know once we have made an appointment. This half term we have welcomed Mrs Fergusson-Boyce and Mrs Gaskin to our team of Midday Meals Supervisors. And finally, congratulations to Mr Michica and his partner who are expecting a baby later this month – we look forward to hearing news of the new arrival!

Annual Reports

These can now be returned to your child's current class teacher please. Thank you.

Fun Hair Friday!

It brought a smile to everyone's face to see children and staff arriving at school with 'crazy' hair styles on the last day of half term. £223 was raised for FOSS and this will go towards the teachers' wish list of resources for classrooms. We will let you know what has been bought shortly – thank you!

Children In Need Day

Next Friday we will be celebrating Children in Need Day in school – please see the separate letter from Miss Camble about this. Please note children can come to school in sports attire for a suggested voluntary donation of £1.

I hope you have a happy and safe weekend and I look forward to seeing you and your children next week.

Yours sincerely

Helen Morris

Mrs Helen Morris



Did you know that by *signing up* for the Amaze Compass Card means that your child will be part of the Disability Register for West Sussex?

Do you know *why* it is important to be on the Disability Register?

If your child has a Special Educational Need that has a big effect on daily living (this *usually* means they're eligible for DLA or PIP and/or have an EHC/Moving On Plan) please read the information below and sign up for a Compass Card today.....

What is the Disability Register and *why* is it important?

Following lockdown and coming through the pandemic has left children and young people with SEND very isolated and, with tough budget decisions being made by local authorities, it is essential that your child or young person's voice is counted.

All children and young people with SEND should be represented in order for local authorities to have a true understanding of the needs of the community. **If local authorities do not know the needs of the SEND community then budget cuts may be made in areas that will have a detrimental effect on the well-being of your child or young person.** By signing up for the Disability Register you are making sure that your child or young person is being counted.

How do I get on the Disability Register?

You may have heard of the Compass Card, the leisure incentive card for children and young people up to the age of 25 living or going to school in West Sussex, but did you know that signing up for the Compass Card means that your child or young person will be part of the Disability Register for West Sussex?

This register is held by Amaze, an independent charity based in Brighton. WSPCF and Amaze work very closely to ensure that we do everything we can to support all families across West Sussex that have children and young people with SEND.

In these very uncertain times, it is the time to ensure your child or young person's voice is heard, that their additional needs or disabilities are acknowledged, recognised and taken into account when it comes to the future planning of service provision.

How do I get a Compass Card?

If your child has a Special Educational Need that has a **big effect on daily living** (this usually means they're eligible for DLA or PIP and/or have an EHC Plan or Moving On Plan) please read the information below and **sign up for a Compass Card today**:

You can now register online, just by clicking here; <https://www.registercompasscard.org.uk/>

The form is really simple, it will take you about 20 minutes to complete, and you do not need to send in any additional documentation.

Now's the time to get your voice counted!



To keep up to date with all of our latest news and events you can follow us on Facebook!
