



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

SUMMERLEA C.P. SCHOOL

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'Growing thoughtful learners and independent thinkers'



Friday 20th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It seems hard to believe we are already two thirds of the way through November! It has been a really positive few weeks with lots of exciting and memorable learning experiences taking place throughout the school.

Updated DfE guidance for parents and carers

The Department for Education (DfE) have updated their guidance for parents and carers on [what they need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#). This update includes information on the national restrictions that came into force on 5 November and the latest advice for clinically extremely vulnerable children.

A few important reminders

Parent Focus Group survey – if you haven't already, please do take a few minutes this weekend to complete this survey to help us decide on future topics for discussion. Please visit our website and go to Our School > School Improvement > Surveys > Parent Focus Group.

Water bottles – these should only contain water and not squash please.

Essential items only – please ensure your children are only bringing essential items to school with them. Please do not allow your child to bring in toys with them (or similar).

School Uniform – please ensure children wearing earrings have small, plain studs and that these are removed or taped over on PE days. On days when children don't have PE, children may wear trainers to school but these must be plain black. Children may not come to school with unnaturally coloured or dyed hair. Thank you for your support.

Annual Reports – these can now be returned to your child's current class teacher please.

Birthday treats

If children are celebrating a birthday, they sometimes like to bring in a sweet treat to share with their friends. Due to the current circumstances, these must be individually wrapped. Please do not send in sweet treats for any other reason unless invited to do so by the school. Thank you.



Celebration of Learning and Christmas

Years 1 to 6 will be putting together a slide show of highlights from the autumn term as a celebration of learning that has taken place. These will also be shared via our website and parental consent will be sought shortly as some presentations may include photographs and/or film clips. This year, due to current restrictions, it will sadly not be possible for all year groups to put on Christmas performances or concerts. Our EYFS children will put together a simple nativity which will be filmed and shared on our website - further information about this will follow.

Christmas Cowbell

It is time to start thinking about a Christmas Cowbell act! We are looking for all singers, dancers, musicians, artists, ventriloquists, magicians, comedians, chefs, sports stars etc... to submit their act as a video to their Class Dojo portfolio. The video must be no longer than 2 minutes long. The video must be submitted by Friday 4th December. Teachers will then select their favourite acts and myself and Mrs Strong will create a virtual Christmas Cowbell to be shared on our website. In line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), we must obtain consent from parents/carers to record such activities and then share using the school website and YouTube channel. By submitting a video, you will be giving your consent and we will be able to:

- Share the performance on the website / YouTube Channel

As part of our commitment to data protection, we will:

- Make sure the performance is not uploaded with the full names of pupils
- Ensure we let you know when a new upload has taken place

We cannot wait to see the talent!

Staffing update

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Dixon and Mrs Grima to our team of Midday Meals Supervisors. Congratulations to Mrs Silcock who has been appointed as our new Senior Midday Meals Supervisor. We are also delighted to have appointed Mrs Palmer as a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant for the remainder of this academic year as part of our Covid-19 'Catch up' plan.

After School Care Club (ASCC)

ASCC remains open and we do currently have some places available. If you are in need of a child care provider after school, please do consider using ASCC as it is important places are filled to ensure the viability of the club during these challenging times. Please contact the office to book a place.

Can you help?

Year 1 are after donations of board games in good condition and without any missing pieces. If you think you might be able to help please speak to a member of the Year 1 team (in Oak or Holly Class) before bringing them into school to check they will be suitable. Thank you.

Stories from the door

This half term I am making my way round the school and enjoying reading each class a story from a distance (the door!) So far, I have had the pleasure of sharing a story with EYFS, Sycamore Class, Beech Class and Hawthorn Class and have more scheduled for next week. It has been a privilege to see how happy and settled the children are and to be able to connect with them through the enjoyment of a good book.

FOSS Fundraising

FOSS are still collecting recipes for the community cook book. This can be anything – starter, main meal, dessert or side dish. They can be submitted to the school office in writing or by emailing them to FOSS foss@summerleaschool.co.uk. The deadline for these is Monday 14th December. FOSS are also looking for a picture to star on the front cover of the book as well as elsewhere in the text so please encourage your child to submit a drawing. As we can't have our

usual Christmas Fair this year we really need your support with this alternative fundraising endeavour – thank you!

Children In Need

It was brilliant to see so many children arriving at school in their sports attire last Friday in aid of Children In Need. We raised an amazing £381.71 for this worthwhile cause – thank you for your donations. It was also great fun to 'kick-start' the day with a physical work out inspired by Joe Wicks and his 24-hour PE Challenge!

National STEM Club Sessions

The National STEM Club provides an opportunity for young people, families and schools to take part in club sessions provided by STEM Learning (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Families can engage in practical and hands-on STEM activities that support curricular learning within a club style environment. Boosting understanding and knowledge of STEM topics. Sessions will occur fortnightly during term time on Wednesdays starting at 16:30 and lasting 30 minutes in length. The planned dates are: November 25th, December 9th, January 13th and 27th, February 10th and 24th, and March 10th and 24th. Visit www.stem.org.uk for more information.

Introducing Ollee – a virtual friend (ParentZone/BBC Children In Need)

Ollee is a digital friend for children aged 8-11, created by Parent Zone and funded by BBC Children in Need's A Million & Me initiative, which aims to make a difference to children's emotional wellbeing. It's designed to help children reflect on how they feel and to process their experiences with the support and help of their parents and carers – and it does this by offering them advice about a range of subjects: school, family, friends, their body, the internet and the world. For each of these subjects, children can choose an emotion that matches how they feel about it: happy, angry, sad, confused, frustrated, stressed or worried. Next, they can choose from a list of topics – for instance, a child who was worried about school might be able to select 'I haven't done my homework' as the cause of their worry. Finally, they'll see a page of advice about the topic, presented in child-friendly bite-sized chunks they can read then or save for later. You can find more information and/or download the Ollee app here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/Ollee>

TikTok – more parental controls

With TikTok surging in popularity, including children deliberately increasing their followers to 1,000 so that they can go live, TikTok is making more controls available for parents. The features, which are available via Family Pairing, include the ability to prevent the child searching and preventing strangers from seeing the post.

LA SOUP-ERS

A friend of one of our parents is running a soup kitchen all through lockdown to help those who are vulnerable, or for anyone who is struggling through this year. It is at Wick Hall, every day, between 1-2.30pm and called the LA SOUP-ERS. A lot of work has gone in to setting this up so please do spread the word!

Thank you for your continued support and I hope you have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely

Helen Morris

Mrs Helen Morris
Headteacher



Getting It Right in West Sussex

for children and young people up to the age of 25 who have moderate to severe learning disabilities

Stakeholder Engagement Event

Wednesday 2nd December

10am—1pm

Venue: Online at home via a Zoom link



Who is it for?

Family carers of children or young people up to the age of 25 who have moderate to severe learning disabilities

Professionals across health, social care and education supporting these individuals and their families

Third sector organisations supporting these individuals and their families

Hear what we've found out so far

Share your views on existing support + services in West Sussex

Discuss your ideas and hopes for the future

Help us improve local services

To book your place please email:

SENDCommissioningTeam@westsussex.gov.uk



Sussex Partnership

NHS Foundation Trust



The event will be led by the Challenging Behaviour Foundation, the West Sussex Parent Carer Forum and West Sussex Professionals.



The West Sussex Getting It Right steering group would like to invite you to attend their virtual stakeholder engagement event on Wednesday 2nd December from 10am -1pm (via Zoom).

They want to hear your views on services and support for children and young people with learning disabilities who display behaviour that challenges and their families, and your ideas about how support should be improved in the future.

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation and West Sussex local authority are aiming to make sure children and young people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges and their families will receive the right support, in the right place and at the right time, from well informed professionals and staff so they can live a happier and more inclusive life in their community.

At the meeting they will be sharing findings from family carer focus groups, a survey of family carers and family carer interviews conducted since February 2020.

They would also like to gather your thoughts and suggestions, including on the positive and negative aspects of existing support and services and what you would like to see going forward.

What will we be doing next?

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation will be putting together a report of the findings and working with West Sussex professionals and families to design a sustainable plan to improve services.

**Please express your interest in attending this event to:
SENDCommissioningTeam@westsussex.gov.uk by Friday 27th November.**

If you would like to find out more about the event or the Getting It Right project overall please contact mary@thecbf.org.uk.

Dear parent carers,

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 are you aware of the benefits of your child or young person being 'on the Compass' and having a Compass Card?

- having the Compass Card gives your child or young person access to hundreds of discounts and offers across West Sussex and Brighton & Hove on all things leisure related
- being on the 'Compass' 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.
- You can combine your Compass Card with a Library card, as well as enjoy some great library benefits

But why is it important for your child or young person to be on the Disability Register:

- Following lock-down 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.

What other benefits will being on the Disability Register provide:

- you will become part of the 'Compass Community'. With an active Facebook page and fortnightly E-Newsletters, we will keep you up to date with leisure ideas, opportunities and provide signposting to events, activities and information that will be useful to you, your child or young person and your family.
- Access to hundreds of discounted leisure opportunities across West Sussex and Brighton & Hove. We know coming out of Covid is scary and taking your child or young person to a leisure venue may not be high on the priority list right now, which is why we have lots of outdoor Compass Card discounts for you to enjoy.

So how do I join and does it cost anything:

- registering on the Compass is super simple and it's FREE! If child or young person receives DLA or PIP or has an Education Health Care Plan then they are automatically eligible.
- you can 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.

So there you have it. Now, in these very uncertain times, 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. Now's the time to get your voice counted, join a supportive community and have the opportunity to access lots of family fun with some great discounts –ALL FOR FREE!

Register here; <https://www.registercompasscard.org.uk/>

Join us on Facebook here; <https://www.facebook.com/AmazeCompassCard>

Any queries, drop us an email to info@compasscard.org.uk

With very best wishes,

The Compass Card Team at Amaze