



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

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'Growing thoughtful learners and independent thinkers'



Friday 8th January 2021

Dear parents and carers

I am writing to provide a short update as we reach the end of the week.

I would like to begin by saying a big thank you to you all for your patience and support during this challenging time. I fully appreciate how difficult the current circumstances are for everyone and you are all doing a great job! Thank you also to all of the staff – I am so privileged to have such an amazing team and your children are also incredibly lucky too.

We are continually reviewing place allocation and have now been able to offer out some places to key worker parents with education and child care and the emergency services. This has come about due to parents of vulnerable children or key workers within health and social care declining places they were offered.

This does remain an ever-changing situation and as soon as places become available we will contact parents. We are unable to 'save' places for children and **parents who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.** If your child has a place and you can keep your child at home, or your circumstances change, please let us know so that we can offer out the place to another child.

If your child is currently attending school because you are a critical / key worker then please ensure you have provided us with evidence of this by next Monday 11th January. If we do not receive this then your child's place may be withdrawn.

After School Care Club will remain closed next week.

A reminder that if your child is attending school and they test positive that you email covidpositivetest@summerleaschool.co.uk to let us know and follow government guidance.

During the period of national lockdown, all children attending school are entitled to a free school meal. As such parents can either provide their child with a packed lunch, or alternatively they will be provided with a hot lunch from Chartwells.

The Department for Education (DfE) have now published new guidance for schools, which includes expectations around remote education. I am working closely with teachers to look at



this and review our remote education plan. Our plan needs to be a high-quality offer whilst also being manageable and sustainable for children, parents and teachers.

The DfE guidance is now clear that for Key Stage 1 the amount of remote education provided should be, as a minimum:

- Key stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children
- Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day

Our current plan (previously published in the autumn term and last reviewed in November) is available to view via our website under the 'Learning Zone' tab on our website and then 'Remote Education'. We are in the process of reviewing this and also looking at using Google to allow classes to come together remotely – more information to follow. This week's virtual assembly is led by Mrs Crook (Key Stage 1 leader) and will be available to view via our website under the 'Learning Zone' tab on our website then 'Remote Education' and 'Virtual Assemblies'.

If you have questions or concerns about remote education please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. Equally, if you have positive feedback to share then please do let us know this too!

Stay safe and I hope you all have a good weekend.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. I will be in touch again soon.

Yours sincerely

Helen Morris

Mrs Helen Morris – Headteacher