



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

SUMMERLEA C.P. SCHOOL

WINDSOR DRIVE, RUSTINGTON

WEST SUSSEX, BN16 3SW

HEADTEACHER: MRS H MORRIS

TEL: (01903) 856783

FAX: (01903) 856784

EMAIL: office@summerleaschool.co.uk



'Growing thoughtful learners and independent thinkers'



Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you safe and well during these unprecedented times. As the second week of the spring term draws to a close, I am writing to provide an update and share some news.

A very proud headteacher

I have been so impressed with the engagement on Class Dojo and the remote education activities being set by teachers. Well done to all of those children (and parents!) learning from home at the moment. Equally, thank you to all of the children currently attending school who have adjusted so well to being in different classrooms and working with different adults and peers to usual as part of their new 'bubble'. Behaviour has been impeccable and everyone is abiding by the new rules and systems brilliantly.

School place allocation

One of the things I want to update parents on is place allocation. Today, we have opened up a thirteenth bubble due to an increase in staffing capacity. As a result, we have now been able to offer places to almost all parents who are keyworkers within education and health care and the emergency services, as well as within the health and social care sector. We have allocated 156 places (35.5% of our number on roll) and are at full capacity based on our risk assessment, which considers staffing levels and available space. Unless more staff are in a position to return to work, it is extremely unlikely that we will be able to offer places to anyone else on the waiting list at this time.

The Department for Education (DfE) updated their guidance again this week and now clearly state:

"Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can."

Due to the very high demand for places, I must insist you only send your child to school if you have to. If your child has been allocated a place and you are able to keep your child safe at home you should. Please contact us via the office email if you can do this, or your circumstances change, so that we can offer your child's place to someone else.



After School Care Club

Due to low demand for places, coupled with safety concerns around the mixing of bubbles after school, After School Care Club will remain closed this half term. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Parent focus group

The parent focus group planned for Wednesday 27th January will be postponed and I will notify you of a new date for this as soon as possible.

Remote education

This week we have reviewed our remote education plan and the revised version is now available to view via our website by going to Learning Zone > Remote Education. Do take the time to read this and if you have any questions or concerns please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. You will see that we now have dedicated members of staff overseeing Class Dojo and that Learning Support Assistants will also be connected to class accounts. On our website, there are links to numerous online resources which will complement our remote education plan. Please go to the Learning Zone > Remote Education to find these. If you are experiencing any technical difficulties with Class Dojo or anything else then please email remoteeducationsupport@summerleaschool.co.uk We will be trialing our first Google Meet tomorrow and then further information about this will follow, with the aim that by the end of next week each class will have connected virtually!

Spelling support

Hopefully you will have seen the letter that was sent via ParentMail yesterday. This includes lots of different ideas about how to support your child with spelling at home. Please visit our website and go to Our School > Curriculum & Assessment > English > Spelling. Many thanks to Mrs Crook (Key Stage 1 Phase Leader and English co-ordinator) for developing these resources.

Elm Class and bubble staffing update

Mrs Cherry and Mrs Welton have kindly covered Miss Axton's absence this week. Next week, cover arrangements will be the same as for this week with Mrs Cherry covering the bubble on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and Mrs Welton covering the bubble on Thursday. As from Monday, Mrs Burge will now be overseeing the Year 5 Class Dojo accounts but parents of children in Elm Class can still contact Mrs Strong with any questions or concerns.

Free School Meals

As explained previously, all children attending school are currently entitled to a free school meal. As from next week, Chartwells will be following the menu published on their website, although desserts may differ. Please view the Steamplicity option at:

<https://westsussex.mealselector.co.uk/Page/149/WS-Meal-Selector---Menus.html>

Linked to this, we are currently not receiving milk or free fruit, so if your child usually has this at break time you might want to provide them with a healthy snack instead.

Virtual Assembly

Please visit our website and go to Learning Zone > Remote Education > Virtual Assemblies to view today's virtual celebration assembly.

I hope you have a good weekend and that we see some sunshine.

Yours sincerely

Helen Morris

Mrs Helen Morris