



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

# SUMMERLEA C.P. SCHOOL

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*'Growing thoughtful learners and independent thinkers'*



Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a pleasure to welcome your children back to school this week for the start of the summer term. This time last year schools were partially closed and I am so pleased that, as restrictions are gradually lifted, life is beginning to feel a little more normal each day. Lots of exciting activities have taken place this week to immerse children into their new topics and learning journeys, and next week we will be celebrating music and performing arts in school. The wellbeing of everyone continues to be a priority - if you have any questions or concerns about your child's welfare then please do not hesitate to contact their class teacher.

## Social distancing

A reminder that it is really important to continue to adhere to social distancing rules when on the school premises as well as beyond the gates. Pick up times are particularly busy and we continue to stagger entry onto the site to help alleviate congestion and ensure a steady flow of traffic. Thank you for your patience. The marshals on duty may give you instructions or reminders about social distancing in order to ensure the safety of our school community.

## Lateral Flow Testing

You will probably be aware that the government is strongly encouraging everyone to test twice weekly in order to identify asymptomatic cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) and prevent the spread of the virus. Rapid Lateral Flow Tests can be ordered online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

## Be safe

One of our 'key three' is 'Be safe'. This is about being safe at home and at school, inside and outside and also online. With the longer days and lighter evenings please do remind your children about 'stranger danger' and road safety, especially if they are spending time out and about with friends in the park etc. or walking/riding to and from school independently.

## Uniform

Thank you for ensuring your child/ren look smart and are in the correct uniform. Please don't be surprised if children not in the correct uniform are picked up on this by staff. As per previous communication, children may wear trainers on days when they don't have PE but these must be plain black. If you are having trouble sourcing the correct uniform then please do let me know. We hope to be able to begin selling some of our used uniform again soon as well.



### Curriculum guides and homework

These will be published next week and provide lots of important information. As usual, both documents will be sent home via ParentMail and a paper copy of homework activities will also be given to your child. Curriculum guides and homework will also be available to view and/or download from our website and hard copies are also available from the office on request.

### Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS)

PLTS are generic skills that are essential to life, learning and work. PLTS have a significant impact on a person's ability to make a confident contribution, both within and outside of their learning/working environment. In wanting to develop children's learning behaviours, we are focusing on the six PLTS skills of: independence, creativity, reflection, teamwork, self-management and participation. They are currently explored and celebrated in assemblies, and we will soon be introducing a new award system linked to these as our aim is for these to become an integral part of our curriculum in the future. More information to follow!

### Parent consultation telephone calls

A reminder that parent consultation meetings are taking place via telephone this half term. If you haven't made an appointment, or received your child's appointment slip, then please contact your child's class teacher.

### Celebration of learning presentations

We hope you have enjoyed viewing these presentations on our school website. With regards these presentations, I previously wrote to parents and stated that they would be removed from the school website after one term. As these are such good evidence of learning, these will now remain on the school website for the remainder of the academic year and can be viewed by going to News and Events > Celebration of Learning.

### The Big Ask

The new Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched [The Big Ask](#) – the largest ever consultation with children aged 4 to 17 in England. It aims to find out children's concerns and aspirations about the future so that we can put children at the heart of our country's recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. All schools are encouraged to support their pupils to complete the survey and children in Year 1 to 6 will have an opportunity to do this in school. If your child is in Reception then please do [complete this survey](#) with them at home. Parents are also invited [to complete the adult survey](#) to share their views about the future for children and young people today, and what they think is holding young people back. The results from this survey will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve.

### After School Care Club (ASCC)

ASCC remains open and is operating from 3-5pm. We are currently closing at 5pm (as opposed to 5.30pm) as per the addendum to our ASCC policy and the covid safety measures we have in place, including enhanced cleaning. Please remember to collect your child by 5pm at the latest or you may incur a late collection penalty fee. We still have some spaces available and are keen to fill these to ensure the longevity of this provision, so if you are interested in your child attending (on a regular or ad hoc basis) please contact the office for further details. Thank you for your support.

### EYFS September 2021

We are delighted to be welcoming a cohort of 60 new reception children to EYFS this September. I am also pleased to be able to confirm the reception staffing team arrangements for next academic year as follows: Mrs Conard (EYFS Leader) will be job-sharing with Mrs Welton in Maple Class. Miss Camble will be remaining in Willow Class and Mrs Gordon and

Miss Black will continue their roles as EYFS Teaching Assistants. Staffing arrangements across the rest of the school will be confirmed prior to transition day which takes place this year on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Staffing news

We are very pleased to have appointed Mrs Fergusson-Boyce (Midday Meal Supervisor) to the role of temporary Teaching Assistant this term. Mrs Fergusson-Boyce will be based in Year 4 initially as Mrs Vervecken is currently absent from work following an operation. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Vervecken a speedy recovery.

I wish you all a happy weekend and hope the good weather continues.

Yours sincerely

*Helen Morris*

Mrs Helen Morris  
Headteacher