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Friday 23rd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This is my last communication prior to the summer holiday and I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you. Firstly, thank you to all of you for your tremendous support during what has been a very challenging sixteen months since the start of the pandemic here in the UK. Everyone has been affected in some way and it has not been easy in so many respects. However, our community has pulled together and supported one another in ways I could never have imagined through endless restrictions, lockdowns, school closures, remote education and self-isolation.

As always, your children have done nothing but make us proud and it is their smiles, laughter and love of life and learning that have kept so many of us going through these difficult times. We wish all of our Year 6 leavers every success in the future and cannot wait to hear what you go on to achieve and do next.

A huge thank you must also go to all of the staff, who are the most committed, hard-working and kind-hearted team I have had the privilege to lead and work with. I know parents share this sentiment and the many words and messages of support throughout have been very much appreciated.

Thank you also to our governors, who volunteer so much of their own time to our school and remained dedicated to their role through numerous virtual meetings this year as well as some face to face visits. Thank you everyone. You have enabled us to continue our journey of school improvement despite the unanticipated challenges we have faced and that makes me incredibly proud of our school and its community.

Cowbell

Our summer term Cowbell Assembly is now available to view via our website by going to News and Events > Performances > Cowbell Assembly. We had a record-breaking number of entries – we enjoyed watching all of the videos so whittling them down was not an easy task. Thank you to everyone who entered – so many stars in the making!

Celebration of Learning

Celebration of Learning presentations for EYFS to Year 5 are now on our website and can be viewed by going to News and Events > Celebration of Learning > Summer 2021. These are such great evidence of the exciting and memorable learning experiences our children have had this year and we hope you enjoy looking at them with your child/ren. The Year 6 Leavers’ video will also be available to view on our website under the same tab.

INSET Days

The academic year 2021-22 begins on Thursday 2nd September. Parents of children who are new starters should refer to the previously issued schedule of induction arrangements as these are different to the rest of the school.

INSET days next year will be on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd October 2021, Tuesday 4th January, Monday 28th February and Thursday 5th May 2022 (which is also a polling day). School will be closed to all children on these dates for staff training.

Risk Assessment

Over the summer holidays I will be reviewing our Covid-19 risk assessment. At the time of writing, I remain optimistic that the vast majority of measures that we have had in place will be able to be lifted in line with current guidance. However, the Local Authority have made it clear that the challenges of the last year are not over yet and that they will be reviewing the situation over the summer and will provide communication and further guidance in advance of schools opening next term, the content of which will be determined by events over the summer. Once I am in a position to do so, I will publish our revised risk assessment on our website.

Communication

Should there be a need to communicate with parents over the summer, our main forms of communication will continue to be via Class Dojo and ParentMail so please do ensure you are connected and signed up to these. If you hear nothing, then please assume this is good news and that there is nothing significant to inform you about ahead of the start of the new academic year.

Covid Keepers

Following our school’s response to the pandemic, there are some changes we have made to school systems and practice that we would like to keep going forwards due to their success and positive feedback from staff and/or parents.

* Our rolling start from 8.30am to 8.40am will remain in place. This allows all families to arrive within a ten-minute time frame and also means that both teachers and learning support assistants are in classrooms at the start of the school day. It also means staff briefings can take place ahead of the school day as necessary and that good hygiene practices can be overseen and supported by an adult. The school day will still end at 3pm and gates will open at 2.55pm.
* Marshalls will be positioned at key points around the one way system and be more than happy to answer any queries you have at drop off and pick up times.
* We are hoping to open the Worthing Road gate (as many of you are aware this is rather temperamental and it doesn’t always open or close when we want it to so please bear with us if this is the case). However, the one-way system around the school will remain in place. Parents will be able to enter via the Worthing Road gate and join the one way-system but only exit via the main gates on Windsor Drive. This is because we have found the one-way system to be highly effective in improving safeguarding as we can more easily monitor people coming on to and leaving the site at these busy times.
* Next term we would like children to continue to come into school on PE days wearing PE kit. This helps to maximise learning time and means children come to school ready and well prepared to be active.

All of these changes will be kept under review and we welcome your feedback and any ideas or suggestions.

School uniform and PE Kit

On the first two days of term all children should wear school uniform as there will be no PE. Class teachers will let you know PE days at the start of term and then as from the week commencing 6th September children should wear PE kit to school on PE days.

Our school uniform policy is currently being reviewed. There are unlikely to be any very significant changes but please do note the following ones below in bold type.

***Uniform***

*Our school uniform consists of the following items:*

*Yellow polo shirt (with or without school logo)*

*Bottle green sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without school logo)*

*Dark grey trousers or shorts of a plain weave and shade*

*Dark grey skirts or pinafore dresses of a plain weave and shade*

*Green/white or yellow/white checked or striped dress*

*Plain white, plain grey, plain dark green or plain black socks or tights*

*Shoes – these must be suitable for school wear i.e. black and sensible.*

*Plain black trainers are acceptable. Boots and shoes with high heels,* ***open toes*** *or with heavy buckles and chains should not be worn in school for safety reasons.*

*Dark Green fleece (for outside use only - not to be worn in school)*

***PE Kit***

*White t-shirt (with or without school logo)*

*Plain green / black / white shorts*

*Tracksuit (optional for outdoor PE in colder weather)* ***Jogging bottoms/hoodies should be plain, dark colours (no logos or bright colours).***

*Suitable footwear – plimsolls or trainers*

We have exercised some leniency this year around uniform due to the unprecedented circumstances. However, as from September, I am expecting every child to be in the correct uniform so please ensure the above is taken into account ahead of purchasing uniform and PE kit this summer. It is imperative that our children feel a sense of pride and belonging and come to school ready to learn and uniform plays an important part in this ethos. If, for any reason, your child is not wearing the correct uniform then please do contact me to let me know so that we can work together to resolve this. Thank you in advance for your support. Details of our two suppliers of logoed uniform are attached.

After School Care Club (ASCC)

As per previous communication, we are delighted that ASCC will be resuming to its normal hours next term from Monday to Thursday each week and will run from 3-5.30pm on these days. On a Friday it will close at 5pm. To secure a place for your child please do contact ASCC direct by phone or via the office.

Parent focus group

As you will be aware, we unfortunately had to postpone the parent focus meeting we had planned for this half term, on the theme of racism and bullying, due to Mrs Strong’s absence. We are pleased to be able to confirm this will now take place via Zoom next half term and a revised letter will come out regarding this in September. Thank you for your support and patience.

Chartwells

A reminder, as per the last newsletter, that on the first day of term (Thursday 2nd September) only jacket potatoes will be available on the Chartwells menu. Also, if your child is moving from Key Stage 1 (Year 2) into Key Stage 2 (Year 3) and you would like them to have a hot school meal you need to order this via the Chartwells website. West Sussex County Council have negotiated with Chartwells and the cost of a meal from September will be £2.33. If your child is in EYFS, Year 1 or Year 2 you do **not** need to book a meal as all infant aged children are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals.

Inclusion team contact

As from September, there will be a dedicated email address should parents wish to contact the Inclusion Team regarding their child’s special or additional needs. Please email [inclusionteam@summerleaschool.co.uk](mailto:inclusionteam@summerleaschool.co.uk) or alternatively, you can of course, still contact us via the office phone number.

Welcome meeting presentations

These will be available via our website shortly and contain an overview of the year ahead. Please go to News and Events > Year group presentations.

Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS)

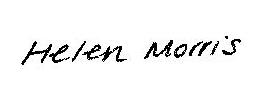
I am really pleased to have been able to present our first badges to children across the school who have demonstrated our PLTS. Children that have earned a badge may wear it with pride on their school uniform from September and we hope they will treasure these and be great ambassadors for the different skills.

Summer Challenge

The Summerlea Summer Challenge is back by popular demand! Please see the attachment below for more information and a big thank you to Mrs Hawkins for organising this again.

And finally, I wish you and your families a happy, healthy and safe summer. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Helen Morris

Headteacher

