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## NEWSLETTER

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### A WARM WELCOME

Dear Parents/Carers

We could not be more impressed with the children – it is wonderful to have them back. Class teachers have said how hard the children are working and how they have ‘got on with the new normal’ extremely well – they are a credit to you.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Reception children and their families. We are very pleased with the confident start that they have made to what is a very unusual year. All the children have experienced at least one lunchtime and we have ‘speeded’ up the induction a little so that they will all be in, all day, by Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>. This is working well so far. However, please do not hesitate to share any concerns with Mrs Bennett via the school office email.

We welcome Miss Cooper to our teaching team this year. Miss Cooper trained with us in 2018/19 and we are delighted to have her back.

We would normally be informing you of all sorts of dates when you could get into school or the children go on visits, but unfortunately, this will not be the case for a while. Please have another look at the quick guide to parents (copied to the bottom of the newsletter) and please stick to the bullet points there in.

The drop off and pick up seem to have run increasingly smoothly since Tuesday so hopefully as we all get into it – it will work even better. Thank you to those parents that have respected our new routines and methods for communication. It is awful to seem so unfriendly; however, we want to avoid having to send children home for 14 days due to careless contact and staff or pupils getting the virus. Please do not wait around, as soon as a school adult is there, please leave your child and the area surrounding the front of the building. If you want to ‘catch up’ please do it on the cycle path. There seems to be a lot of parents gathering at the corner of Crofters Lea, this is making it look much more crowded and chaotic, and we do not want this to be the impression people have. So if Year 3& 4 parents could come right up to the large carpark gates, and if parents in general could stay in their cars until just a few minutes before their child’s pick up or drop off time this would also help. We have had some careless parking already which means it is dangerous for mini-beasts to cross the road. Please park in the church carpark or the retail parks nearby. Thank for your anticipated support throughout this coming term.

*Mrs Todd*

**Parents Meetings** – These are now on the Class Pages on the website. If you have not looked at the appropriate one for you, I suggest you do so. The Knowledge Organisers lay out what your child will be learning in each subject term by term, as well as other important information.

**Year 6 Residential to Kingswood** – This has been rebooked for April

**Individual School Photographs** – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September – no family photographs at this time.

**Training Day** – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – school closed to children

**School Re-Opens** – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

**Head Teacher Vacancy** – Closing date for applications is Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September and Interviews will take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Please promote this vacancy with anyone who is eligible. Further details on the Trust website [Headteacher Vacancy](#) and if you are interested please contact Mark Foster our chair of governors for an informal discussion [m.foster@ssppyeadon.org](mailto:m.foster@ssppyeadon.org)

## **A MESSAGE FROM MRS BENNETT FOR OUR NEW RECEPTION FAMILIES**

Reception Class have had a fantastic first week and are settling into their new classroom really well! There are just a couple of points I would like to mention; Please ensure your child's uniform/book bags/water bottles are clearly labelled with their names to avoid any confusion. We have attached a handwashing guide to this newsletter which shows children how we wash our hands here in school. Please could we ask that you practise this with children at home, so that they are washing their hands the same way as everybody else in school. We have also watched this video which you can watch at home too <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjeIWLnEg>

Could we also kindly ask that you practise opening and closing the spouts on your child's water bottles over the weekend. We have had a few children needing us to do it for them, but to promote independence, and also to reduce any contamination, it would help if they were able to do it themselves. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing them all again on Monday. Mrs Bennett.

## **PE TIMETABLE**

As mentioned in the Risk Assessment children can come to school in PE uniform on the day they have PE.

**Monday** – Year 3 and Year 5, **Tuesday** -Year 1, **Wednesday** Year 2 and Year 5, **Thursday**- Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6. **Friday** – Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6.

**Reception** will not have PE in PE kit until after the October half-term holiday.

**Year 4** will be swimming on Wednesdays and we will let you know exactly when they are starting as soon as we have confirmation. The children will wear their school uniform on swimming days.

## **HOMEWORK**

Children are expected to read for at least 10 minutes per day in Reception to Year 2 and 15 minutes for Years 3-6. This will be a levelled book from our reading spine. Parents of younger children are asked to record what their child has read – for example from pages 12 – 24 and how well they have read and understood. Children also have access to a library book in Reception and Year 1. Children in Years 2 to 6 will also bring home one of their class 100 books. In addition to this, we encourage children to read their own books at home.

Some year groups and individuals have access to Lexia, all pupils have access to Symphony Maths and from Year 2 upwards Times Tables Rock Stars. We have also introduced Spelling shed for Years 3 - 6 this year. The more you can support your children at home the more equipped they will be to handle work in class. I know many parents have completed lots of home learning during Lockdown and it was a pleasure to see all the work the children did. However, it is important that we begin again with renewed vigour and do not feel jaded from the previous experience but begin again to support our children in this new academic year. The computer programmes mentioned children should be able to complete on their own. I know it is hard for many working parents to find the time each evening but the value of your interest, in your child's learning, cannot be underestimated

## **SCHOOL LUNCH**

We will be using 'Grab Bags' up until half term, from half term we will be returning to normal meals but with no jacket potato option. We have had a number of children saying they are still hungry after eating the grab bag and nutritionally they do seem very high in carbohydrates and not as 'balanced' as we would like. Those parents that have cancelled school meals can have a look at the new menu when it comes out and decide if they want to re-start. We are being flexible at this time as we realise it is very difficult for parents if children are coming home saying they are hungry. However, from January once a decision is made you need to maintain this decision (be it for the child to bring a packed lunch or have a school dinner for the full half term).

## **PARENT PAY**

Parents of children who have started in Reception will have received a letter with activation details for ParentPay. Once you have activated your account you will be able to pay for a pump bag and book bag and these will be handed out to children in class so that parents do not need to come to the office.

## **COOL MILK**

As you may be aware, school milk is free to children under 5 years old. Once they reach 5, they are still able to receive milk in school, parents just need to visit <https://www.coolmilk.com/> and click 'Register Your Child For School Milk'. You can pay Cool Milk directly, and they notify us each week who is having milk in school.

### **DATA CHECKING SHEETS**

We are **not** going to send home copies of Data Checking Sheets this year. It is most important that we are kept informed of any changes in case of emergency. If you have moved house since last year, changed mobile or email address, have decided to change emergency contact details or the priority of these, please let us know via a note to the office or an email. In addition, we need to know if you have changed doctors or your child has been recently diagnosed with a medical condition or a dietary requirement. If you are unsure as to what has been submitted in the past, please feel free to ask for a copy of your sheet – again via a note to the office or through an email. This is to save paper and administrators time. It is now a requirement that we have at least 2 emergency contacts for your child. We will be contacting parents individually to ask for details of a second contact if we do not have this information.

### **CONSENT FORMS**

As above with the data-checking sheet, we will **not** be sending home copies of the Consent forms. We are using the same information from the forms that were sent home last year, so if you feel differently, and would like to change any preferences, please contact the school office. We can then send home a new form for you to complete.

### **ATTENDANCE**

We have had 100% attendance this week. This is brilliant! In line with our Child Protection Policy, if your child is absent from school for any reason, **please contact us by 9.30 a.m. on the first morning of absence**. If school has not heard from you by this time, we will contact you via telephone.

### **SCHOOL APP FACILITY AND PARENTMAIL– Reception Parents Please read**

Most parents now use the school app and we are sure you will agree how useful it is for receiving information and general notices from school. For our new parents, please could we ask that you try to download 'School Jotter' on your mobile device following the link: <http://www.schooljotter.com/school-jotter-mobile-app/> Once you have downloaded the app, please look at the settings section and select the classes/groups you would like to receive notifications for.

Your email addresses have now been entered onto **Parentmail** too. We use Parentmail to send the majority of our letters home, rather than printing them. Please keep an eye on your inbox for notifications.

If you require any help with either of these communication methods, please call the school office and they will be happy to help.

### **MUSIC LESSONS**

Those year groups eligible to start music lessons, or continue their music lessons, will have now received a letter via Parent Mail. Please ensure you return your reply slip, or email the school office by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September if you wish for your child to participate.

### **BIRTHDAY SWEETS**

Unfortunately in the current situation we find ourselves in, we cannot allow children to bring sweet treats into school on their birthday as they usually would. This is a real shame as children look forward to handing them out, but we will still continue to acknowledge the week's birthdays during our Friday morning worship, which is done in classrooms via Zoom.

Here is a reminder of the Quick Guide for Parents that has been communicated recently:

Quick Guide for Parents

Please try to follow the points below to keep our community safe

- Do not approach the class teachers. (Email or telephone school to make a telephone appointment or pass on a message)
- Look at the class page for your child often - revisiting the presentation by staff for parents several times over the year so that you know how to support your child.
- Revisit the newsletter, know the times when you should drop off /pick up your child
- Use the school post-box or large box at the front of the building to drop things in that have been forgotten (lunchboxes etc.).
- Maintain social distancing and educate your child on this as best as possible. Please be a good example, wear a facemask if you feel more comfortable, and maintain 2 metres if and when possible, do not stand speaking in large groups outside school.
- Only one adult to drop off and collect children where possible.
- Parents will not be allowed into school. Any messages or queries should come through the office via phone or email.
- School will get children to regularly wash hands and use hand gel.
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered.
- Classrooms will be well ventilated – as the weather becomes cooler ensure your child has a vest under their polo shirt as well as a school jumper/cardigan.

School will try its best to ensure children social distance in line with government guidelines appropriate to age and stage. If everyone is vigilant, in and out of school, we should not have to collapse any of the seven bubbles and school should be able to remain open for all!