

Simmondley Primary School

Pennine Road, Simmondley Glossop, SK13 6NN Tel 01457 852721 Fax 01457 850974
Email:enquiries@simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mrs D Greaves
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs G Ellison
Acting Chair of Governors: Mrs C Wood
Website: www.simmondleyprimaryschool.com

Friday 8th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!



I hope you had a lovely summer holiday and managed to get out on the days the sun made an appearance in the holidays! A special welcome to our new Reception children and other children, who have joined us. I hope you and your children will soon settle into our 'Big Family at Simmondley' and enjoy joining in the fun, learning and life at our busy community school. All the pupils look very smart in their school uniforms and have settled into their new classes very well. The new Reception children in Apples and Rowan classes are delightful and are settling into their classes superbly!

I apologise now for the length of our first newsletter but there is lots of information and reminders at the beginning of the year. You may wish to have a cup of tea and a biscuit and put your feet up to read it, if you are able to.

Congratulations



We would like to congratulate Miss Rocca who got married over the Summer holidays and is now Mrs Rocca -Jordan.

Building and Improvements

There have been some major building works taking place over the holidays and I would like to thank Mr Phillips our caretaker for going above and beyond in enabling the works and the Nursery build to be completed on schedule. We have also been 'gifted' a significant amount of furniture from Denton West End Primary School and would like to thank Mrs Garlick for the school's generosity and Mr Phillips for the trips back and forward to collect it. School is looking clean and tidy and I would like to thank Mr Phillips and all staff who have worked so hard during the holidays to get our school, office and classrooms ready for the children.

Our Sunrise and Sunset Club have had a major refurbishment and I would like to thank Mrs Hazelhurst one of our parents and school governors for her generosity in donating a brand new kitchen. We are absolutely delighted. The Nursery build is also complete and it is wonderful. We look forward to continuing our wonderful partnership with Simmondley Pre School Young Explorers as they begin their adventure.

Some Sad News

Unfortunately we start the year with some sad news that Mr Bob Billson one of our wonderful School Governors passed away during the holidays after a lengthy illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and colleagues at this very sad time. We remember him as a man that loved his role in school, always made us smile and who will be sadly missed by all those that were touched by his humour, expertise, generosity, loyalty and dedication to our school. We will be planting some seeds in our garden to remind us of him!

Start of the Day

Please may I remind you that the Foundation Stage and KS1 classroom doors open at 8.50am for you **to hand your child** over to their teacher. To avoid congestion and to encourage your child's independence **please avoid going into the classroom with them**. The whistle is blown at 8.55am for KS2 children to line up on the playground. **It would be helpful if parents of KS2 children left the playground when the whistle blew so that the pedestrian gates can be locked as soon as possible**. The outside doors are closed at 9am and children who arrive after that time will need to enter school through the main door where they will need to be signed in at the office. It is important that children are in school on time as after the register at 9 o'clock, lessons begin promptly in all classes. We continue to work hard to accelerate pupil progress and it is important that children are in school for the start of their lessons as it is unsettling for them, their peers and the teacher when the start of the day is disrupted. **The play equipment is for use under staff supervision only so I would ask that you do not let your children play on it before or after school. The children know they are not supposed to play on it.**

OOPS! Box



I am sure that we all agree that we would like to encourage our children to be independent and organised, however we understand that occasionally things are forgotten in the morning and they have to be dropped off in school during the school day. If this happens on a regular basis Mrs Kimberley is taken away from her work in the office and the learning of children in classes is interrupted to drop these items off. If you need to send something into school, please could you put it in a carrier bag with your child's name and class on it and leave it in the '**Oops! Box**' in the entrance area. Monitors will pick it up at morning and afternoon breaks and deliver it to the children.

Illness, sickness etc



Please could I remind you that we do ask that parents do not send their children into school when they are poorly as we want to avoid germs and infection spreading.

I would also like to remind parents that if your child has a stomach upset (sickness/diarrhoea) **you do need to keep your child off for 48 hours (2 days) after the last occurrence** of sickness/diarrhoea. If they are in school and need medicine to be administered, this **must not** be sent in with the child but handed in to the Office in the dispensed bottle/packaging and the appropriate forms also need completing. Mrs Kimberley will be more than happy to help you if you call in at the office.

Late Pickup at the end of the day

Late pick up arrangements which have worked very well will continue with this year. Children will stay with their teacher on the playground or in their classroom until **3.40pm**. If they have not been collected by this time they will be taken to After School Club where **they will need to be picked up from at the entrance to Rise and Shine Club at the back of the Car Park.** You child will be provided with a drink and a snack and the cost will be £2.00 per half hour of care provided. **Please do not come to the front of school.**

Scooters and Bikes

Please do not allow your children to ride their bikes or scooters in the playground at the start and end of the school day. I know the playground is a very tempting place in which to whizz about, but it is also a crowded place and speedy wheels can cause accidents! Thank you for your support.

School Uniform



In relation to uniform and dress in general we do try to be balanced and take a common sense approach, and our uniform policy is available on the website. There are however times when we may need to make a judgement in relation to a new fashion statement linked to hair styles, shoes and other items pupils wear from time to time.

Please could I remind you that children should not wear nail varnish or wear logo/football/ wrist bands or elaborate headbands, but a watch with a name on if possible is allowed. Thank you for your support in helping our children continue to look smart in school and take pride in their Simmondley uniform.

Lost Property

We simply do not have the capacity in school to keep endless amounts of clothing, coats, shoes etc for long periods of time. There is a Lost Property Box at the front of school. If uncollected, they will be bagged up and sent on to a good cause.

School Run-Parking on Pennine Road.



Parking on Pennine Road at drop off and pick up continues to be a challenge. Our primary concern is the safety and welfare of our children when they arrive in school. Please could I ask that you are mindful of our neighbours and avoid blocking driveways . ***Please ensure that you park safely, legally and considerately at drop off and pick up.***

Universal Free School Meals for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

The implementation of Universal Free School Meals has been implemented with great success at Simmondley and the vast majority of our younger pupils now receive a hot meal every day in school. Thank you to Sue, our cook and all the kitchen staff who work hard every day to ensure standards are met and our food is of the highest quality.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS DOES NOT REPLACE THOSE CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND IN DOING SO RECEIPT OF PUPIL PREMIUM.

Registering for free meals can raise an extra £1,300 for our school, to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff and after school activities.

- 1) Is your joint family income under £16,190 per year?
- 2) If not, are you in receipt of any of the benefits listed below?
 - Income Support?
 - Income-based Jobseekers Allowance?
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance?
 - Support from NASS (National Asylum Support Service) under part 6 of the Immigration/ Asylum Act?
 - The guarantee element of State Pension Credit?
 - Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than **£16,190**?
 - Working Tax Credit run-on?
 - Universal Credit?

If you answered yes to either of the above then please come to us immediately. If you are eligible, rest assured that the information is confidential. We are very discrete - even your child will not know that you have registered – let alone anyone else. Help us to help your child.

Communication



Please can you ensure that you return your child's Personal Information form as soon as possible as we need this to check our records are correct. Please complete a form for each child. As we are responding to your requests for alternative forms of communication and trying to cut down on the amount of paper we send home, please check the school website for all class newsletters and copies of trip/swimming/afterschool club letters. Please note as we require a signature for trips and afterschool clubs these will be sent home with your child. If you do require a paper copy of any letter, please contact the school office. ***Mrs Kimberley is available in the office from 8.30am- 11.50am and from 1.15pm to 4.30pm. Please note there is a reduced service in the office over lunchtime.***

Rise and Shine and Sunset Club



There are places available at our After School Club 'Sunset Club.' Please contact Mrs Brooks on 07842 094 890 for further information. Prices are as follows;

Sunrise: £5.00

Sunset: up to 4.30pm £4.00
up to 5.15pm £6.00
up to 6.00pm £7.50

The cost of tea will remain at £2.00 for the present.

Please note that if you require emergency After School Care you will now be able to book for that day or week by ringing the School Office on 01457 852 721 and your child will be booked in.

School App Reminder

Just a reminder about our app service to the school. Our School App is a personalised app for our school and will allow us to keep you updated with all school information, news, calendar events and contact information for the school office.

If you have a smartphone (Android or iPhone) you can download OurSchoolApp from Google Play Android or Apple Store for **FREE**. Access is also available on a tablet and iPad by following the same download process. When we update OurSchoolsApp with new information or news about the school, a push message notification will automatically be sent to your device to inform you of this update. You can then view the notification which will then take you directly to our app.

Instructions for download are as follows:

1. Using your device (iPad, iPhone, smart pad, tablet or android phone), visit the relevant market place for your product (Apple Store or Google Play).
2. Search for '**OurSchoolsApp**' and download the app.
3. Once downloaded, use the search bar within the app and enter the postcode or name of our school.
4. Hit the search button
5. Once you see the school name displayed, just touch the screen on the school name.
6. Confirm your choice by pressing "OK"
7. You will now be presented with the correct app for your chosen school which contains, news, information and calendar events.

If you do not have a smartphone you can still view the app and the information online at www.OurSchoolsApp.com

Holidays in Term Time Reminder

Please can I remind you that ***under the updated government legislation*** I am still unable to authorise holidays/leave of absence in term time except in the most exceptional circumstances. There continues to be a considerable number of requests for 'holiday leave' in our school. Circumstances such as ***parent's work commitments, cheaper holidays*** or the chance for a ***"holiday of a life time"*** are not considered to be "exceptional" and I cannot authorise holidays in these circumstances. If parents choose to take children out of school for a holiday without authorisation from the school then such absences have to be recorded as unauthorised. Unauthorised absences will be referred to Derbyshire County Council who will issue Penalty Notices in line with their policy. Please follow the link below for Department for Education legislation <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/leave-of-absence-children-missing-school-during-term-time/holidays-during-term-time>

Last year 46 families took their children out of school for an unauthorised holiday and as a consequence our percentage of attendance, which is monitored by Ofsted was below the National expectation for the first time ever. This is being monitored by the Local Authority, Board of Governors and our school link adviser as our school's unauthorised attendance is exceptionally high within the county.

School Website

Please do make a regular visit to our website www.simmondleyprimaryschool.com as we are regularly adding and updating it with news and information. The website contains most of our key policies and information but if you could let us know if there is any key information you think we may be able to add to help parents we would be most grateful.

Open Day

We will be holding an Open Day on ***Thursday 12th October***. The times will be 9.15-11.30am 1.30-3.30pm and 1.30-3pm. Please do put the date in your diary and drop in during the day for a tour of the school and to see us in action.

Social Media Policy



Just to remind you that we have set up our own Facebook and Twitter Accounts. We are having plenty of 'likes' and 'views' and have received very positive feedback about our new way of sharing our achievements and celebrations. You can follow us on Twitter @simmondley16 and on Facebook at [Simmondley Primary School](#). We are adding more items to our pages so please do have a look. As we upload more to social media and our website, our 'Simmondley Snapshot' will become a monthly newsletter.

INSET DAYS 2017-2018

Please note that the INSET days for the remaining academic year 2017-2018 are as follows;

Friday 20th October 2017

Tuesday 2nd January 2018

Monday 9th April 2018

Concerns and Complaints

We have an open door policy at Simmondley Primary School and believe in working in partnership with you so that any difficulties which may arise are usually resolved by discussion in school. It is helpful if you contact us at an early stage with your cause for concern so that all parties can be prepared for when we meet and the situation does not escalate.

Social Media Sites

The use of Social Media sites is not an appropriate way to raise genuine concerns as problems cannot be investigated and dealt with fairly and effectively, if school does not know about them. May I also respectfully remind you that a statement about an individual that is untrue is libellous, especially if it undermines the reputation of an individual. ***If such comments are made about any staff member, this will be followed up by the Derbyshire Legal Services and staff union representatives to seek independent legal advice about pursuing a claim.*** May I also remind you that our school is trying to educate children about "cyber bullying", and to protect pupils from becoming victims of such bullying. Posting negative or offensive comments on social networking sites sets a very poor example, and could lead children to believe that "cyber bullying" is in some way acceptable. If children have access to negative comments about our school and our staff, it could reduce their confidence in the school, and this could be damaging to their education. ***Thank you once again to the many of you who support us, work with us and use the appropriate channels to raise your concerns.***

Where there are concerns, ***the class teacher should first be consulted*** as this is usually the best way to resolve any concerns you may have. If you feel that the situation remains unresolved please make an appointment to see the Key Stage Leader. They are as follows;

Upper Key Stage 2 Leader	Mrs Ellison	Year 6 and Year 5
Lower Key Stage 2 Leader	Mrs Collyer	Year 4 and Year 3
Key Stage One Leader	Mrs Daniels	Year 1 and Year 2
Foundation Stage	Mrs Horton	Reception

Where issues are not resolved at class or Key Stage Leader level or your class teacher is the Key Stage Leader, please contact school to speak to myself or Mrs Ellison. ***You are encouraged to talk to class teachers, Key Stage Leaders and myself about good things that are taking place too!***

We will endeavour to arrange for you to be seen or telephoned on the same day if possible, but in keeping with the smooth running of school, this may not always be the case and an appointment for the next convenient time will be offered to you. This can be either in school or a telephone appointment. All telephone appointments and meetings in school are logged so that there is a transparent process. Issues will be followed up immediately or as agreed, and you will be contacted promptly regarding your complaint. Procedures for making formal complaints to school are available on the school website www.simmondleyprimaryschool.com or at the school office on request. ***Please note we do not operate a 24 hour email service and an acknowledgement of your concerns will be sent to you within 24 hours and your concerns will be followed up in line with our policy.***

Under circumstances where issues were not resolved formally in school, the Chair of Governors, should be contacted in writing, via the school. ***Where complaints need to be taken beyond the school and the Governing Body are involved, the DfE/ LA recommended complaints procedure has been adopted by the Governing Body and will be followed.***

Thank you for your support in following these procedures.

Parent Pay Reminder

In an attempt to remove all cash and cheques from school we are asking all parents to only use our e-payment method for ***dinner money***. This can be done online using a very secure website called Parentpay or in cash at local stores where you see the PayPoint logo. Please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Kimberley if you would like any further information or if you require a letter with an activation code. ***Your support in using ParentPay will help the school enormously***, thank you.

Thankyou



I would like to say a very big thank you to Cherie Bottomley who keeps our fish at the front of school, healthy, happy and clean throughout the year. We are very grateful for the time and effort that she gives.

We have a very busy, exciting year ahead and I look forward to working in partnership with you along with the rest of our Simmondley Team this year.

Kind regards

Debbie Greaves

- ***A list of Diary dates will follow early next week.***

