

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
Chair of Governors: Mrs C Wood
Website: www.simmondleyprimaryschool.com

Thursday 2nd November

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!



I hope you had a lovely half term and have managed to enjoy some of this wonderful mild weather we are being treated to during these Autumn days. As always, you may wish to have a cup of tea and a biscuit as you read our newsletter if you are able to, as it is rather long. It's going to be another very busy half term in the run up to Christmas.

Simmondley Snapshot



There were lots of 'Reasons to Celebrate' last half term and I feel very privileged to be the Headteacher of our wonderful community school. Our pupils continue to take part in a variety of events and activities in school and extra-curricular activities contributing to a broad and balanced and enriching curriculum.

Pupils have received certificates for showing the strengths of Kindness, Enthusiasm, Respect, Perseverance and Teamwork. Well done to our certificate winners.

Our Pupil Leadership Team were superb school tour guides on our Open Day, and our Three Legged Lollop on Friendship Friday raised over a staggering £2000 (£2053.50) for Reuben's Retreat. There are a variety of after school clubs and opportunities for sport and our children have represented our school at local events in Rugby, Football, Gymnastics and Map Quest.

We are very proud of our school and visitors are highly complimentary about what a warm and friendly place it is to be.

Our half term finished with our inaugural joint Collaboration of Glossop Schools (COGS) Inset day. Staff from a variety of schools in Glossop came together for the day and we were very proud that our very own Mrs Hunter, Mrs Worrall, Mrs Ellison, Mrs Collyer and Mrs Beresford led workshops on the day. A very big thank you to you all, for your contributions and expertise on the day.

Some Sad News

Unfortunately we start the half term with some sad news that Mr Richard Jenkins, who was our Chair of Governors and a governor for many years, passed away this week 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 with a wonderful sense of humour who loved his role in school. He will be sadly missed by all those that were touched by his dedication, enthusiasm and kindness.

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 at 9am***. 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.

Please could I respectfully ask that you only pass on brief messages to your child's class teacher in the morning. If you need to speak to a teacher about anything else, please let the office know and an appointment or telephone appointment will be arranged for you as soon as possible. If you have Safeguarding Concern, please let this be known at the office and Mrs Ellison or I will meet with you or telephone you as a matter of urgency.

OOPS! Box

The Oops Box is working well but just a reminder.... If you need to send something into school, please could you put it in 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 break and deliver it to the children.

Late Pickup at the end of the day



Late pick up arrangements which have worked well and we will continue with them 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***. Your 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

Wrapping up Warm for Winter



The autumn has been mild so far but I am sure that there are some very cold and wet days ahead. We try to get the children out as much as we possibly can. As the weather begins to change, please make sure that they have a warm (and preferably a waterproof) coat, sturdy closed shoes and hats and gloves so that they can enjoy the fresh air every day. Outdoor PE continues through the winter too and children are welcome to wear lots of clothes for this including sweat tops, joggers and waterproof jackets.

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.

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. Items will be on a table in the Entrance Hall on a Friday each week and if uncollected, will be bagged up and sent on to a good cause.

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 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.

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.

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 5.55pm £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.

Holidays in Term Time Reminder

Please can I remind you that ***under the current 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>

Communication



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.***

INSET DAYS 2017-2018

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

The use of Social Media sites does not address the problem and if school does not know it is not possible for us to respond.

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 Two Leader	Mrs Ellison	Year 6 and Year 5
Lower Key Stage Two 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 of our receipt of your concerns, 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.***

School Development Plan

Please see below our school development plan objectives. We welcome your feedback and please do ask if you have any questions.

	Objectives	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
1	Improve the quality of leadership and management by: ensuring that subject leaders play a fuller role in improving the quality of teaching. (Ofsted 2015)	Develop	Implement	Embed	
2	Improve the quality of teaching so that it is outstanding, and in doing so raise standards across the school by: Ensuring that the most able pupils are challenged to achieve to the very best of their ability making sure that the best practice in teaching is shared across the school. (Ofsted 2015)	Implement	Implement	Implement	Embed
3	To improve levels of attainment in writing, with a particular focus on spelling, grammar and punctuation.	Develop	Implement	Embed	
4	To continue to develop an effective and accurate tracking and assessment model for English which will support pupils learning , enable parents to recognise progress and allow school to track individuals and groups of pupils.		Develop	Implement	Embed
5	To continue to develop an effective and accurate tracking and assessment model for Maths which will support pupils learning , enable parents to recognise progress and allow school to track individuals and groups of pupils.	Develop	Implement	Embed	
6	To implement a Healthy Minds, Healthy Mindset Strategy to address mental health and resilience barriers to achievement		Develop	Implement	Embed
7	To improve the use of our outdoor learning environment in order to provide a range of challenging, progressive and creative outdoor learning experiences. (To include EYFS)	Develop	Implement	Implement	Embed
8	To implement a data and feedback informed teaching approach directed towards challenging next stage ready assessments and associated closing the gap processes.		Develop	Implement	Embed
9	To develop and share expertise across the COGS Glossop cluster and through teaching school alliance networking.	Develop	Implement	Implement	Embed
10	Implement recruitment and retention strategy based on a positive ethos, workload reform, professional development and enhanced opportunities for staff.	Develop	Implement	Implement	Embed

Applying for Reception Class 2018

If your child was born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 they will be eligible to start school in September 2018. You should apply for their infant or primary school place by the **15th January 2018**. You will be able to make your application from **9am on the 13th November 2017** at https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school_places/default.asp

Parents Association



I would like to say a very big thank you to all the members of the PA who work relentlessly behind the scenes to support our children and our school. We really do all work together for the benefit of our children and it is great having such a wonderful team on board. If you are interested in getting involved they can be contacted by email to pa@simmomndleyprimaryschool.com.

Staffing Update

Just before half term, Mrs Haigh our wonderful School Business Officer resigned so that she could spend more time with her family. I would like to thank Mrs Haigh on behalf of all our school community for her commitment, expertise and tireless work in steering our school through continuing financially challenging times. We are most grateful and will miss her. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Rachael Hinchliffe a very experienced School Business Manager will be replacing Mrs Haigh and I'm sure you will give her a warm welcome if you see her around school.

School Run-Parking on Pennine Road.



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.***

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. **Parents need to phone school on the morning of every day of absence.** 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.

Children in Need- Friday 17th November



This year we are celebrating Children in Need day by coming to school in our **onesies** or **pyjamas** in exchange for £1 which will be collected by class teachers at registration. To ensure modesty is maintained, please ensure children wear underwear, socks and trainers. Flimsy items are not suitable as the children will be playing out as usual.

We have a very busy, exciting term 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