

Simmondley Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs D Greaves
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs G Ellison
Chair of Governors: Mr M Jolly
Website: www.simmondleyprimaryschool.com

May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

I hope you had a lovely Easter break and have managed to enjoy some of the sunshine and warmer weather that has been with us during this very short half term. 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 has been a fantastic start to the Summer term. We continue to have a really strong team at Simmondley, both in teaching and non teaching roles and our children continue to benefit as a result of this. Our children are very well behaved and demonstrate positive learning behaviour in lessons, eager and enthusiastic about their learning. The many visitors I show round school are always very impressed and comment on the lovely warm, friendly atmosphere. Thank you for your continuing support.

Simmondley Snapshot



We have been carrying on with our whole school behaviour strategies which includes the use of recognition boards in the classroom and Hot Chocolate Friday with the Headteacher for children who have gone above and beyond each week. Just a reminder that our revised rules are;
Be kind, Be ready, Be safe.

We are looking to catch our children everywhere in school keeping these rules and will be praising them for doing so. We have also been speaking to children about 'Wonderful Walking' and 'Legendary Lines Ups' and have made some changes to our Celebration Assembly including the Best Seats in the House for 'Above and Beyond Behaviour. Whilst we seek to praise our children, we recognise that if they are provided with help to improve their behaviour and this doesn't happen then there need to be sanctions. These have been discussed in assembly with all of the children and should you have any questions about this process please do ask your children and the class teacher.

We have also developed a new core framework which reflects our vision for our school.



Vision - Caring Hearts, Aspiring Minds

Mission - To go above & beyond, to encourage & inspire

Core Values

- Kindness
- Happiness
- Teamwork

Our Rules

- Be Kind
- Be Ready
- Be Safe

Start of the Day

Start of the day procedures continue to work really well enabling us to concentrate on our meet and greet procedures with our children. Thank you for your support with this. Please may I remind you that Apple and Rowan Class gates opens 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.*** Elm Class will be collected from the playground at 8.50am. Please look out for Mrs Rocca-Jordan or an adult holding up the yellow Elm Class sign. The whistle is blown at 8.55am for Y2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 children to line up on the playground **on their own. Adults please remain behind the yellow cones.** There are staff on the playground who will support those children who arrive after their line has gone in but the pedestrian gates will be locked at 9am. Those 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. Children will line up outside their classroom and be greeted by their teacher on the way in. 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 a 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.

Emergency Childcare

We do recognise that on occasions childcare is needed unexpectedly, we are therefore offering emergency cover daily after school for up to 12 children that will be run until **4.30pm ONLY** and will cost £5.00 per day, per child. Please note that no snack is provided during this session. **These places must be booked and paid for via Parent Pay prior to each session. Bookings must be placed before 2.00pm on the day childcare is needed. No bookings will be taken at the school office.**

Late Pickup at the end of the day



Late pick up arrangements will continue with no changes at the moment. KS 1 children will stay with their teacher on the playground or in their classroom until **3.40pm. KS2 children have been reminded that if no one is there for them when they are dismissed from class they must not leave the school grounds but come straight back into school and report to a staff member.** **Please could I respectfully ask all parents that if you see a child that has not been collected from the playground at the end of the day, please bring them back into school immediately to a staff member or the School Office and not to contact their parents or offer to take them home. School will need to seek permission before any child is allowed home with someone who is not on our list to collect them.** If children have not been collected by 3.40pm they will be taken to the Emergency After School Club (Oasis Room) at the back of school where a charge of £5.00 will be administered which we would ask is paid through Parent Pay. **Please do not come to the front of school to collect them as they can be collected from the gate at the bottom of the Car Park**

Rise and Shine and Sunset Club



There are places available at our After School Club 'Sunset Club@' for block bookings in advance. 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 5.45pm £7.50

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

Please also note that the last pick up time for the Sunset club is 5.45pm

Supply Cover/Staff Absence Arrangements in School

Supply cover is required in schools for a variety of reasons; to enable staff to access training for their class teacher role, and their subject leader roles, for PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment Cover), leadership and management activities and staff absence. We are very fortunate here at Simmondley in that we encounter very little long term staff absence in our school, but occasionally, as in any other workforce this may happen. At present we use Mrs Longworth and Mr Ellison for supply to cover classes. They are both known to the school and know our school well. Mrs Worrall, who is a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, provides most cover, although we have an exceptionally talented group of Teaching Assistants who also work at a Higher Teaching Assistant Level to provide short term cover. The benefits are that the staff are known by the children and the children are known by the staff. During absence, long term planning is adhered to, Key Stage Leaders oversee and quality assure learning and standards in classes, talking to pupils and looking at books. Teachers who work in parallel classes provide planning support for supply teachers and teaching assistants to ensure continuity and progression for our children.

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, school trips, Sunrise, and Sunset Club**. This can be done online using a very secure website called Parentpay. 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.

Social Media Policy



Just to remind you that our Facebook and Twitter Accounts are a lovely way to celebrate our school. We are having plenty of 'likes' and 'views' and have received very positive feedback about this way of sharing our achievements and celebrations. You can follow us on Twitter @simmondley16 and on Facebook at Simmondley Primary School.

Attendance and Punctuality

Our school is continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality and we are writing to remind you that we expect children's attendance to be at 96% . Where absence falls below 90% school will monitor this for improvement. THANK YOU SO MUCH to those families who ensure children's punctuality and attendance is high. THANK YOU for getting these important habits established early on in your child's life as it will make a difference in their futures. There is a link between attendance and achievement and therefore it is very important that your child attends school every day unless there are **exceptional** circumstances

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>

INSET DAYS/ LOCAL ELECTIONS for 2019

The remaining INSET day for this academic year is Monday 22nd July 2019 .**We have been informed that our school hall will be used by the general public on Thursday 23rd May for the European elections. Due to not being able to safeguard our children during the day, we will be closed to pupils.**

Administration of Medicine in school.

If your child needs short-term medication (for example, antibiotics) you must complete a medicine request form, available from the school office. **We can only give medication that has been prescribed by a doctor** and only if a medicine request form has been received. Please ensure you hand any medicine to the office. **Please do not ask children to be responsible for doing this.**

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.

Use of Trim Trail on the Playground.

Please note: The Trim Trail is for use under Staff Supervision during the school day between 9am and 3.30pm **.It is closed to all children before and after these times.** The Trim Trail is risk assessed by a staff member at various times during the school day before children are allowed on it and on no account should anyone be playing on it outside of those hours. The children know that they are not supposed to use it too.

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

Dressing for summer school days (hopefully)



As the (hopefully!) warmer weather begins, here are a few reminders about dressing your children for school. We try to play out in all weathers so your children should always bring a light-weight showerproof jacket so they can enjoy being outside even in the rain. We recommend that you apply long lasting sun-cream to your children in the morning before they come to school and that they bring a sun hat to school.

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 and Mrs Hinchliffe are taken away from their 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 break and deliver it to the children.

New School Website

Our new school website is almost up and running. We will let you know when we are ready to go live.

Earrings

Children should not wear earrings for Sport and PE. Please take them out on the day that your child takes part in such activities. If you wish to tape them up, please do so before they come to school as we are not able to.

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.** Mrs Hinchliffe our school Business Manager is in school from Monday to Thursday, 9 until 3pm.

School Run-Parking on Pennine Road.



Here at Simmondley, we try very hard to keep on good terms with our neighbours. When this goes wrong it creates bad feeling about our school and causes my time being taken away from the core purpose of educating our children when I have to follow up legitimate complaints made by local residents. Please could I ask that you are mindful of our neighbours and avoid blocking driveways, double parking and do not park in the Bus Lane and Zig Zags at pick up and drop off. We have asked for support from the police with this continuing situation who will be issuing fines. Please could I also request that you do not park in the Medical Centre Car park. ***This is a small minority of parents that are causing unrest between school and our neighbours and I would like to thank the majority of you who park safely, considerately and legally and are as concerned as I am about the situation.***

Health Snacks for Breaktimes



We are continuing to notice an increasing number of children bringing unhealthy snacks for breaktime especially crisps every day. We would like to trial 'Crisp Friday' which will be the only day we would like children to bring crisps for a snack. Please send in fruit or alternative healthier options. Thank you for your support with this.

Sickness etc



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. Please call the office every day if your child is going to be absent from school.

Concerns and Complaints

We have an open door policy at Simmondle 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 School Leader	Mrs Collyer	Year 4, 5 and 6
Middle School Leader	Mrs Daniels	Year 2 and 3
Lower School Leader	Mrs Gerrard	Reception, Y1 and Y2

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.

Parents Association



A continued thank you to our fabulous PA who are currently working hard behind the scenes with school on our new outdoor classroom which is currently in the planning/project approval phase with Derbyshire County Council. They have raised over £10,000 for this and we can't wait for the next stage in the development. We will keep you updated as and when we are able to about this exciting new instalment for school. If you would like to get involved and find out more about what they do, they can be contacted by email to pa@simmondleyprimaryschool.com

Healthy Packed Lunch Reminder



A few of our children are still bringing rather unhealthy packed lunches to school containing lots of processed food and with very little fresh fruit or salad or any protein-rich food.

If children eat well at lunchtime, they have more energy and better concentration levels and so are able to learn well in the afternoons. Please help your child by following the school guidelines on packed lunches below

Sandwiches with a protein rich filling (i.e. tuna, cheese, cold meat, egg etc.) You could ring the changes sometimes with a different source of carbohydrate i.e. pasta or rice salad, filled wraps, pitta bread, crackers and cheese spread etc.
Fruit, salad and vegetables (i.e. carrot sticks, apples, grapes, tomatoes, oranges, plums, cucumber, sweetcorn, raisins etc)
Dairy food – a yoghurt or some cheese
Something (non-fizzy) to drink - low or no sugar if possible
An optional small snack or treat; i.e. crisps, a biscuit or cereal bar, a bun or scone, a “corner” yoghurt, cheese dunker, mousse, jelly etc ONLY ONE OF THESE PLEASE!

I have asked our lunchtime staff to encourage the children to eat their sandwiches, fruit, salad and dairy food **BEFORE** they eat any snacks or treat you may have included.

Partnerships



Our school continues to build and work with a variety of partners in order to continue to improve our provision for our children. We play an active role in the Collaboration of Glossop Schools (COGS Cluster) and are strengthening our work with Ignite Teaching School Alliance becoming full members this academic year and being instrumental in setting up a satellite hub for several other local schools to join and develop. We have several staff members who are undertaking the NPQML Middle Leaders qualification with a newly formed High Peak training Hub.

We are also working with the Dowson Maths Mastery Hub. There continues to be a strong Heads, Deputies, SENCOs and Business Manager network who regularly meet and work together to improve outcomes for all our children in Glossop and share our expertise and resources. A COGS Governor Network has been set up and are we are looking forward this year to work further with Manchester University in the Fellowship Programme to measure and evaluate the impact of our joint working on outcomes and opportunities for our children. We continue to be outward looking, and positively welcome collaboration with others.

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.

PUPIL PREMIUM

Please check the following criteria below to see if your child may be eligible for Pupil Premium Funding. This is NOT the same as Free Schools Meals in KS1 and generates much needed additional funding for school. Registering for **PUPIL PREMIUM** can raise an extra **£1,500** for our school, to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff, access to music and the Arts, residential and after school activities. **PLEASE APPLY IF YOU THINK YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE.**

- 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.

Music Afternoon



Mrs Collyer will lead the Music Afternoon on Friday 28th June at 2.30pm. This is a low key, informal gathering for parents of children who either sing or play an instrument. Please look out for more details.

Once again I would like to say well done to our school community and I look forward to working in partnership with you along with the rest of our Simmondley Team this year....

Kindest regards

Debbie Greaves

PLEASE SEE DATES BELOW TO END OF THIS ACADEMIC YEAR (Please note these may be subject to change and dates may be added, but we will communicate these to you as early as possible.)

Friday 24th May	Hawthorn Class Assembly
Friday 7th June	Willow Class Assembly - 9.15am - 9.45am
Friday 7th June	Silver Birch Class Trip to Stockport Air Raid Shelters
W/c Monday 10th June	Year 1 Phonic Screening takes place
Wednesday 12th June	Class Photographs
Wednesday 12th June	New Reception children to visit Mrs Gerrard's Class 2.15-3.15
Wednesday 12 th June	RSE Talk for Parents – details to follow 4-6pm
Thursday 13th June	New Reception children to visit Mrs Bruce's Class 2.15-3.15
Friday 14th June	Rowan Class Assembly - 9.15-9.45
Monday 17th June	Year 5 Clarinet Concert - more details to follow
Wednesday 19th June	New Reception children to visit Mrs Gerrard's Class 2.15-3.15
Thursday 20th June	New Reception children to visit Mrs Bruce's Class 2.15-3.15
Friday 21st June	Silver Birch Class Assembly 9.15-9.45
Wednesday 26 th June	Maths Mastery Workshop for parents –details to follow
Friday 28th June	Maple Class Assembly 9.15-9.45
Friday 28th June	Music Afternoon - More details to follow
w/c 1st July	Year 6 transition days to chosen secondary schools - please check with your school which days
Friday 5th July	Beech Class Assembly 9.15-9.45
Wednesday 10th July	Year 6's Leavers party at Glossop Cricket Club - Arranged by Parents
Thursday 11th July	Hawthorn & Oak Summer Production 2.30pm and 6.00pm
Friday 12th July	Apples Class Assembly 9.15-9.45
Friday 12th July	Transition afternoon - New Reception starters lunch
Monday 15th July	Year 5 trip to Whitehall Activity Centre
Monday 15 th July	Y4 Show in a Day 'Matilda' 6-7pm Details to follow.
Tuesday 16 th July	Meet the New Teacher 3.45-5pm and New Starter Evening 6-7pm
Thursday 18th July	In-School Year 6 leavers party (1.30-3.30)
Friday 19th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly - 9.30-10.30
Friday 19 th July	School finishes for the Summer Holidays
Mon 2 nd Sept 2019	INSET DAY School closed to pupils
Fri 25 th Oct 2019	INSET DAY School closed to pupils
Mon 4 th Nov 2019	INSET DAY School closed to pupils
Mon 20 th July 2020	INSET DAY School closed to pupils
Tues 21 st July 2020	INSET DAY School closed to pupils