

Simmondley Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs D Greaves
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs G Ellison
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Website: www.simmondleyprimaryschool.com

Friday 16th 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



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. Our pupils continue to take part in a variety of events and activities this term in school and extra-curricular activities contributing to a broad and balanced and enriching curriculum. We continue to initiate charity work; Children in Need, Glossopdale Foodbank (for Harvest) and including regular fundraising for Reuben's Retreat our chosen school charity. A variety of events are planned for this academic year.

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 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.

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 After School Club where **they will need to be picked up 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.

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.

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.**

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 at the moment, 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.

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% . 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 2018-2019

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 2nd May for the local elections. Due to not being able to safeguard our children during the day, we will be closed to pupils.**

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.**

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.

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.

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. They are currently very busy planning the Christmas Fair, so please do contact them if you are able to offer any help at all. The PA have raised almost £ 10,000 for the playground project and we are currently planning and preparing along with Derbyshire County Council for the installation of a magnificent bespoke Outdoor Classroom. Watch this space.....

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.

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 or talk negatively about staff members, 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 School Leader	Mrs Collyer	Year 4, 5 and 6
Middle School Leader	Mrs Daniels	Year 2 and Y3
Lower School Leader	Mrs Gerrard	Reception/ Y1

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 which is available on our school website.***

Thank you for your support in following these procedures.

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.

Anti -Bullying Week



A variety of activities have taken place this week as part of Anti Bullying Week. These include, assemblies and workshops for the children with an Anti- Bullying Specialist and parents meeting which was highly praised by those who attended. Children also joined in with the Odd Socks theme on Wednesday and have taken part in a sharing assembly on today. We have most certainly chosen Respect and Kindness.

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

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.

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 TSA becoming full members this academic year. There is now 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. We are in the process of developing a representative from our Governing Bodies to form a COGS network and are looking this year to work further with Manchester University 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.

Children in Need- Friday 16th 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.

A Fond Farewell



It is with sadness that I am informing you that our wonderful Mrs Haken has decided to retire at the end of this term after twenty-five years of service in our school, five years of which she was a volunteer. She will be remembered for many things but I would especially like to thank her for running Cross Stitch Club and all the amazing creations she has supported our children in making over the years. We will make sure that we give her a fitting send off at the end of the term and will keep you informed of our plans. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Haken a happy and healthy retirement with all our good wishes for the future. We will most definitely miss her!

Thank you for your continued support of our school and I look forward to working in partnership with you this term.

Kind regards

Mrs Greaves

DATES TO CHRISTMAS

Friday 23.11.18 MOSI TRIP Beech, Willow, Maple

Monday 26.11.18 Ordsall Hall Trip Silver Birch

Friday 30.11.18 Christmas Fair 6-8pm

Wednesday 5.12.18 Maple and Willow Christmas Production 2.30pm 6pm

Wednesday 12.12.18 Apple, Rowan, Beech Christmas Production 2.30pm 6pm

Friday 14.12.18 Christmas Dinner

Monday 17.12.18 Silver Birch Party

Tuesday 18.12.18 Oak, Hawthorn Party

Thursday 20.12.18 Apples, Rowan, Elm and Beech Christmas Party

Friday 21.12.18 Willow and Maple Party

Friday 21.12.18 End of Autumn term- School Closes to pupils for the Christmas break

Monday 7th January School opens to pupils for the Spring Term 2019