



Simmondley Primary School

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✉ enquiries@simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk ☎ 01457 852721

Wednesday 3rd November

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!



I hope you had a lovely half term and have managed to enjoy some of the wonderful mild (if not wet) weather we have been 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.

Staffing Update

We would like to welcome Mr Nick Small to our teaching team who will be working alongside teachers to enhance the current PE and Sport provision for the children in school. He will also be running after school clubs (more details to follow) teaching swimming, and supporting participation in local competitions in a variety of sports and activities within the High Peak School Sport Partnership.

Parents Evening Feedback

It was wonderful to hear all the positive feedback from Parents Evenings and to see so many smiling faces and proud parents. Your children really are amazing! We are interested in your views and would like to invite you to complete a Parents Evening Feedback form, which will only take 2 minutes. Please submit your response by Wednesday 9th November.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vXbBAnAnrkScVMQZMuwPIKGBkQKjMQNFnk2oAFcgKetUNFRZTFk5RFFVUkFOMUJPRjA2NjBWNEgVRI4u>

Important Diary Dates

Please check your emails for instructions as to how to sign up to the school calendar for the draft dates for this academic year. Events and activities will be added onto the calendar and we will aim to give you sufficient notice of these.

School Website

Our school website can be found at www.simmondleyprimaryschool.derbyshire.sch.uk Please let us know if there is any other information that would be of help to you.

Communication

Office	We will communicate with you via email, texting service and occasionally paper letter which will require your attention.
Teachers	Teachers Class Newsletters will be sent out through the Jotter App which is linked to the school website. Class reminders may be sent by text and staff will aim to do this the day before an event or activity.
Whole School	Head teacher Newsletter at the beginning of each half term through the jotter app which is linked to the website. Simmondley Good News Bulletin every Friday

Communicating With School

Please only use the class emails for teaching and learning communication with your child's class teacher. If you require a more in depth discussion with your child's teacher, please contact the school and an appointment will be made for you. **Medical appointments and pick up by another parent should be sent to the school office using enquiries@simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk and absences@simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk to report an absence.** If using the absence email, please put your child's name and the class they are in, in the subject. ***If you have a safeguarding concern about a child, please contact school and this will be followed up immediately asking for Mrs Ellison or Mrs Greaves as we are both Designated Safeguarding Leads.***

We are here to help and would ask that we are treated courteously and respectfully. Verbal and Physical abuse towards our staff will not be tolerated.

School Values and Rules

We are 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 school 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 'Super Standing', 'Wonderful Walking' and "Legendary Lines Ups.' 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. Should you have any questions about this process please do ask your children and the class teacher and check out our school Behaviour Policy which can be found on our school website by following this link. <https://www.simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/school-information/school-policies>

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

Vision - Caring Hearts, Aspiring Minds	
Mission - To go above & beyond, to encourage & inspire	
Core Values <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kindness• Happiness• Teamwork	Our Rules <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be Kind• Be Ready• Be Safe

Start of the School Day

Start of the day procedures continue to work really well enabling us to concentrate on our meet and greet procedures with our children and to get them into classes quickly so that their lessons can begin. Thank you for your support with this. A reminder that the playground gates open at 8.45 and the bell will ring at 8.55am for children to line up. There are staff on the playground who will support children who arrive after their line has gone in or who are worried or upset but the 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 to start 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 staff member in the morning.

Late Pickup at the end of the day



Children will stay with a member of staff on the playground in their class lines until 3.35pm then they will be taken back into school to wait at the front near the office. ***Please contact the school office if someone different is picking up your child. For example another parent. School will need to seek permission before any child is allowed home with someone who is not on our list to collect them.***

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.

Sunrise and Sunset Club



There are places available at our After School Club srssclub@simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk for block bookings in advance. Please contact Mrs Hinchliffe at the school office 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

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

Use of Trim Trail and Outdoor Gym Equipment 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.

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. ***Please also make sure that your child has a pair of wellies in school.***

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. ***PLEASE ENSURE ALL YOUR CHILD'S UNIFORM/BELONGINGS ARE NAMED/LABELLED.***

Applying for Reception Class 2023

If your child was born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 they will be eligible to start school in September 2023. You should apply for their infant or primary school place by 15 January 2023. You will be able to make your application from 9am on 7 November 2022. (More details to follow)

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.

Please also help to keep face to face learning going with minimal disruption by continuing to follow the guidance for Covid ***by isolating for 3 days and only returning to school if your child does not have a temperature after that.*** If your child needs medicine (***prescribed by a medical professional only***) 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 Cole and Mrs Hinchliffe will be more than happy to help you if you call in at the office.

Parent Pay Reminder



We are now a cashless school and 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 or in cash at local stores where you see the PayPoint logo. Please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Cole or Mrs Hinchliffe 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 Office



Mrs Cole is available in the office from 8.15am- 12pm and from 12.30pm to 4.15pm. **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 2.45pm.

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 **97% in line with DFE**. 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>

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 Grant

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, and 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.

Social Media Policy



Just to remind you that we have our own Facebook and Twitter Accounts. We are having plenty of 'likes' and 'views' when sharing our achievements and celebrations. You can follow us on Twitter @simmondley16 and on Facebook at Simmondley Primary School.

Health Snacks for Breaktimes



We are continuing to notice an increasing number of children bringing unhealthy snacks for breaktime especially **crisps every day and sweets and chocolate in packed lunches**. **'Crisp Friday'** is 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.

Parents Association



A continued thank you to our fabulous PA who are currently working hard behind the scenes to raise money for all our children in 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

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.

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.**

School Run-Parking on Pennine Road.



Please remember to park legally and safely at drop off and pick up times. Thank you to the many parents who do so, as the safety of our children is of great importance to us, as is our relationship with our neighbours. This applies to events after school too. **ALSO PLEASE CAN WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT PARK IN THE CAR PARK AT THE DOCTORS SURGERY.**

Swimming Coach/ Bus Lane

Please can we ask that you do not park in the bus lane or double-park on Pennine Road. We have received reports from the coach company and parents that the swimming coach is not able to park safely on a Wednesday morning to collect the children for their lessons, due to ongoing congestion. Thank you for your support in improving this situation.

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.

Raising Concerns with school.

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.***

Please remember 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 your child’s Team Leader. They are as follows;

Key Stage 2 leader	Mrs Collyer	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
Key Stage 1 Leader	Mrs Ellison	Reception, Y1, 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 me. ***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 a face to face in school, online TEAMS meeting 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.derbyshire.sch.uk 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.

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 Best Practice Network delivering Senior/ Middle Leader and Early Careers Teacher training. Mrs Ellison and I are facilitators for this training. I also support five schools in Derbyshire as an Associate School Improvement Partner.

We work with the Turing Maths Mastery Hub and Ambition Institute. 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. We continue to be outward looking, and positively welcome collaboration with others.

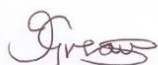
Anti-Bullying /Children in Need



As part of Anti- Bullying week, we are asking children to wear Odd Socks to school on Monday 14th November to help celebrate what makes us all unique. This year we are celebrating Children in Need day on Friday 18th November by wearing 'Spots and Dots' for a small donation of a £1.

We have a very busy, exciting term ahead in the run up to Christmas and I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you along with the rest of our Simmondley Team this year.

Kind regards



Mrs Debbie Greaves

