



# Simmondley Primary School

Simmondley Primary School, Pennine Road, Simmondley, Glossop, SK13 6NN  
enquiries@simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk ☎ 01457 852721

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Welcome back

I hope that all our children and families have had a good break and are ready for another busy half term. It has been a fantastic start to the Summer Term. We continue to have a really strong team at Simmondley, both in teaching role 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.

## Looking out for other

Just a reminder that if your child is unwell and has a fever they should stay at home until they feel better and the fever has resolved. If your child needs Calpol to control their temperature, please keep them at home. If there is no fever, then children can be in school but should continue to protect others by following the simple advice that we are well used to;

- Ensure good hand hygiene by regular handwashing and sanitising
- Catch coughs and sneezes in tissues, bin them and then sanitise hands
- We will continue to fill up the sanitiser in school and will encourage good ventilation, while ensuring classrooms are a comfortable temperature for learning.

## Important Diary Dates/ School Website

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. Our school website has had an upgrade so please check it out when you get chance at <https://www.simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk/>

## School Closure – Election Day Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May

School will be closed to pupils on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May due to local elections. Despite our school governors and School Business Manager **robustly** challenging the decision to use the school site, our school will be used as a Polling Station. The replies we have received from those that make the decisions ( High Peak Borough Council) are predominantly that it is the Headteacher's discretion as to whether to close the school or not. ***It is without doubt a huge safeguarding risk to allow the public into our school site whilst the children are in, and contradicts every process that we undertake on a daily basis to ensure that the children are kept safe. Therefore there is no such choice for me to make and I will have to close school to pupils.*** Apologies once again for the disruption to the children's education.

## 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 3.15pm

## Communication

Office	We will communicate with you via email, texting service and occasionally paper letter which will require your attention.
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](mailto:enquiries@simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk) and [absences@simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto: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 triaged and followed up accordingly by 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.

## Start of the School Day

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.**

### Sunrise and Sunset Club



There are places available at our After School Club [srssclub@simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto: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: £4.50

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*)

### 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. Please could I remind you that children should not wear makeup, nail varnish or wear logo/football/ wrist bands or elaborate headbands. A watch with a name on if possible is allowed ( **not a device that can be used to connect to the internet**) 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

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

### 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.**

### Attendance and Punctuality

Our school is continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality and we are writing to remind you that we are aiming for our children's attendance to be at **97%**. 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. **If your child is unable to attend school please inform us via the telephone or absence email address by 9.30 latest on the day they are absent.**

### 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 (**two weeks' notice is required for it to be considered**), 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>

### Healthy Packed Lunch Reminder



A few of our children are still bringing rather unhealthy packed lunches to school containing lots of sugar. **If children eat well at lunchtime, they have more energy and better concentration levels and so are able to learn well in the afternoons.** 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 (one of these items only please)

### Health Snacks for Breaktimes



We are continuing to notice an increasing number of children bringing unhealthy snacks for break time 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 **Please do not send your child with fizzy drinks or energy drinks.** 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 influence events and activities that raise money for our children, then please do contact the team to offer your time (however much you can will be much appreciated.) They can be contacted by email at [pa@simmondleyprimaryschool.com](mailto:pa@simmondleyprimaryschool.com).

### 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.** Please can we ask that you do not park in the bus lane or double-park on Pennine Road.


### 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. Our Concerns and Complaints Policy can be found on our website at,

<https://www.simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/school-information/school-policies>

I am very much looking forward to continuing to work in partnership with you this term, the staff team and I are grateful for your continued kindness and support.

Kind regards



Mrs Debbie Greaves

