

23 October 2020

Newsletter 7

Dear Parent/s /Carer/s,

### **Sumdog**

Firstly, news of some amazing learning. Congratulations to all participants in the Sumdog competition last week. Our pupils answered a total of 56,996 questions in total, showing great determination and perseverance. Special praise must go to Silver Birch who came in tenth place out of all classes in West Sussex - a great achievement! Thank you to all participants for contributing to the school total and keep on playing to raise your chances for next time.

### **Parental Communication**

After an excellent start to the term, with everyone being vigilant in following drop off and pick up arrangements, some have found it difficult to maintain.

Our doors remain open from 8.30 AM for all pupils but we need to politely remind all parent/s/carer/s that most communication should still be by email to either the office or the year group emails, not through conversations at the door.

In the morning sessions, teachers are guiding and supporting pupils and it is not an ideal time to pass on information. Some doors and pathways are being blocked because of this, so flow and safe morning routines are being impeded. Please remember to comply with arrangements as agreed next half term for the benefit of all.

In addition, we ask that a minority parents/carers with a single child in the school are mindful that their pick up time does not start until 3 PM. If you arrive too early it limits flow, which makes healthy social distancing worrying for others. Please do try to consistently enter the site in a timely manner.

Please find attached a letter from Paul Wagstaff regarding the potential Covid-related closing of our West Sussex schools.

### **Website**

Whilst some of our website remains under construction, the rest is available for you to take a look at. Included on the front page is a link to our school video, which was required in the absence of face to face tours for new Reception children in September 2021.

### **Gate and Fence Project**

Yesterday, contractors confirmed that they will need to run into half term to complete the works, which will include new access to Heather Playgroup from the junior playground. They also confirmed that part of the front playground fencing is currently unavailable, so there will be a gap between the fence and the main building for a couple of weeks.

If you are walking around that corner of the building nearest to the car park, **please keep left** at all times to maintain your safety and that of others.

So that makes for a busy half term on site with roof inspections, gutter clearance, boiler and alarm servicing, water testing, internal decoration and tree surgery all booked in to keep on top of site maintenance.

### **Leaves – Can you help?**

Leaves build up on our play areas (especially the front playground) this time of year. If you have a rake, and are able to volunteer to help us with their socially distanced clearance on **Sunday 1 November from 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM**, the play areas will be safe for the children to access when they return. Thank you in advance for any time you can give that day. We'll provide the bin bags!

### **Children in Need 2020**

This year we are going to take part in the Children In Need 'Five to Thrive' schools programme to boost mental wellbeing and raise funds for children and young people across the UK.

During the week beginning 9 November, we will explore daily fun activities that encourage friendships, exercise, self-reflection, learning new skills and acts of kindness.

Due to Covid 19, we are unable to collect cash donations but if you would like to donate to this cause, please visit [www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk](http://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk).

### **Road Safety**

Finally, with the evenings drawing in and the clocks going back an hour on Sunday 25 October, road safety for the darker afternoons/evenings becomes even more important. A useful Guide for Parents can be found via the following link:

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Wishing you all a healthy half term.

Kind regards

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Headteacher