



SINGLETON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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September 11th 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

How lovely to see everyone back, smiling and looking so smart in their uniforms. The staff in school are pleased to have children back in classrooms and the sound of playtime is music to our ears.

Children

A very special welcome to 4 new children, Archie, Joshua, Freddie and Tristan. We are delighted to have you in our school and look forward to getting to know you all over the coming term.

Next week we will welcome our new reception children. They will start a little later on Monday morning so that we can settle in the Year 1 and 2 children first.

On Tuesday morning, they will start at 8.30am and I therefore ask that unless communication is urgent and required for that day, please can parents/carers of Year 1 and 2 children simply drop and go. If you have a simple message that I can pass onto the staff then please do let me know.

Thank you.

Staff

We also welcome Mrs Springthorpe who is our new SENCO and PPA teacher, Mrs Greene who teaches Year 2 every morning, Miss Deakin who teaches Willow Class and Mrs Sharpe who has many roles, including supporting children with playground games at lunchtime. We look forward to getting to know them even better – however they already feel part of our team!

The staff worked very hard over the summer to make sure the school, classrooms and equipment were ready for the children this Monday. On behalf of the Governors, I want to thank them for their dedication and commitment to the care, safety and education of our children.



Thank you families

I must be honest, writing Risk Assessments and plans is one thing – seeing if they work is quite another. I must thank you all for firstly having read the lengthy guidance and then following it. So far so good!

Reminders:

1. If your child is displaying any of the following symptoms, please ensure you engage with testing and isolate. The testing process is available on line and can be booked for Portsmouth or Tangmere.

High temperature

New continuous cough

Loss of smell or taste

There was a report in The Guardian that upset stomachs in children may also be a symptom in children. This is not yet on Public Health England's list, but do remember that your child should not return to school for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhea.

2. Today your child/ren are bringing forms home. These are very important. Please return all forms in an envelope, marked with your child's name by **WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER**. Please give the forms to your child/ren to hand to their teacher.
3. In computing lessons, the children will be learning about being safe on line. We are aware that there are some very unpleasant items being hidden within Apps your child may use such as Tiktok and Facebook. If your child has access to Apps and is unsupervised / wearing a headset / in another room, they may be vulnerable to seeing images that are damaging.

Please also remember that if your child is gaming and wearing a headset, you will not be aware of who else is online. Sadly, there are people who will use gaming platforms to seek out vulnerable children and this can be the beginning of exploitation. It is your parental responsibility to SAFEGUARD your child from such materials/exposure.

4. Communication is the key to a strong relationship between home and school and we encourage all of our families to discuss matters of concern or positive messages with us. We sadly have to ask that only 1 parent/carer attends any arranged meeting on the premises. These meetings will be time limited to 15 minutes, outside where possible and you will be asked to wear a mask – as will the staff. Remember, you can also request to have a phone call meeting.
5. May I also take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that we expect all communication to be respectful. If any member of staff feels that the tone, volume or words of a public conversation from a parents/carer are not appropriate, they will end the conversation.

We will always take time to listen, find solutions and work with families, but ask that we are treated with respect and courtesy.

Worship

This week the children have been thinking about building and rebuilding our school community. We looked at the story of Nehemiah, who returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon to rebuild the City. We considered the foundations needed to build a strong community, and how this may look in our school.

We thought of the values that are important in our school, love, kindness, friendship, respect. Behaving in a kind, loving respectful way is the key to building our school community.

Learning

It is great to see the children reconnecting with each other, making new friendships and settling back into some form of routine.

We are ensuring they have plenty of opportunities to talk about their feelings and emotions, worries or concerns. The morning 'dash and chat' is a fantastic way of allowing children to communicate with staff and their friends – early morning worries are quickly resolved before learning starts.

The children all have a worry box in their rooms – a way of asking for help without publically having to speak to the teacher.

Our focus in PSHE has been on Feelings. We are helping the children to identify, name and discuss a full range of feelings, and how to manage any that have a negative impact on them.

Assessments of the children's learning are happening in all curriculum areas – including their fitness. Mrs Springthorpe taught all of children this week and there was plenty of sprinting on the field!

CONTINGENCY planning will be in place if you have to isolate or the school returns to partial lockdown. This will be a blend of online learning for lockdown using Google Classrooms and weekly online Maths and English and a physical learning pack for when a child needs to isolate. We will have the packs ready to come home next week and the online Maths and English links/learning will start on Monday 21st September.

WILLOW CLASS: NEXT MONDAY AFTERNOON

Next Monday the Year 1 and 2 children in Willow Class are going for a walk into the Levin Woodlands. With this in mind, please can the Year 1 and 2 Willow Class children come to school in long trousers and trainers next Monday. They will still need to wear their red polo shirts and school jumpers. It is meant to be tropical next Monday – so please ensure they have sun cream on for the day and bring a sunhat. They will be back for the end of the school day.

Final words from some of the children:

Joshua (Y5) I feel comfortable here – everyone’s friendly!

Archie (Y5) I feel happy – I see my brother and I can go on the field - all the time.

Arthur (Y3) It feels brilliant to be back with my friends.

Faith (Y3) Amazing – I’m happy to see my friends again.

Mason (Y3) It’s so fun playing with my friends again and I like all the new staff.

Tristan (Y2) I’m happy here – the footballs good.

Archie (Y2) It’s fine – even more (than fine!) – especially football.

Spencer (Y1) Nice to be back – to get on with my learning and make flowers for the wall.

Primroze (Y1) I like seeing my friends and having time with them.

Clearly, friendships and reconnecting is what matters most to our children too. It is certainly how I feel seeing you all again!

Take care – enjoy what is going to be a lovely weekend.

Theresa Smyth and the Singleton Team.