



Simmondley Primary School

✉ Simmondley Primary School, Pennine Road, Simmondley, Glossop, SK13 6NN

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

Friday 18th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another lovely week in school and the children have been enjoying a variety of activities throughout the week including some fabulous sports sessions with Mr Sheldon, our Sports teacher. As always, our school is a lovely place to spend a day and the sound of children chatting as they learn and play and dancing and singing outside at lunchtime has been heartening.

Newsletters have been sent out today and homework will begin from Monday 21st September.

Drop off arrangements are going really well so thank you everyone for a great team effort. There are still improvements to be made at pick up so please note the following;

- **ONE ADULT ONLY** must enter the school site per family,
- All adults **MUST** remain 2 metres apart at all times.
- Children **MUST** remain with their adult **AT ALL TIMES**
- Adults **MUST** leave the playground and move away from the school site **IMMEDIATELY** after collecting their children.
- Adults **MUST NOT** approach Teachers or Teaching Assistants to speak to them.
- Derbyshire County Council does not allow dogs on their school sites whether on foot or carried by their owner. **SO PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR DOG ON SITE.**

Thank you for your support and patience in helping us to get all our children in and out and keep everyone safe.

We appreciate that not being able to have informal chats with staff at drop and pick up is a real change to how we are usually able to work in partnership with you, but would like to reassure you and ask that you work on the assumption that **'no news is good news.'** Staff will notify you of any significant concerns or incidents and will call you after school. We are a very experienced staff team who are kind and highly vigilant and will contact you if they feel there is a problem with your child. We will do so by telephone after school. If you have any questions, please contact enquiries@simondley.derbyshire.sch.uk or use the class emails to contact your child's teacher.

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. ***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, and to that effect nothing actually changes for your child.***

If you feel that the situation remains unresolved after contacting the class teacher, please contact school to make a telephone appointment to speak to 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 Stage Leader level, please contact school to speak to Mrs Greaves.

We will endeavour to arrange for you to be 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. All telephone appointments 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. Thank you for your support in following these procedures.

As previously mentioned, we have set up a designated email address absences@simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk as a preferable way for parents to report a pupil absent. It will be monitored 7 days a week. Please let us know if the absence is COVID specific. Please check out our website for a quick guide & flowchart regarding pupil absence for parents and carers that you may find helpful. It can be found under the Parents - September 2020 Full Opening section.

Just a reminder that Mrs Collyer will carry out her SENCO role on a Friday. To contact her, use the senco@simmondley.derbyshire.sch.uk email that will be monitored and responded to on this day only during the week.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child, please contact school and this will be followed up immediately by Mrs Ellison or I who are both Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Please see below from the Department for Education regarding a new service for schools and the process which we are instructed to undertake.

'The service is for those needing support on the action they should take when they have been informed of a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in their setting (i.e. a pupil or staff member testing positive). This new service has been introduced by Public Health England (PHE) and is delivered by the NHS Business Services Authority, working to agreed PHE and DfE guidance.'

When contacted;

'This option will take you through to the dedicated team of advisors who will inform you what action is needed based on the latest public health advice. They will work through a risk assessment with you to identify close contacts. Advisors will be responsible for referring more complex cases, as necessary, following a triaging of your circumstances during the call.

This new advice service has been introduced following a significant increase in calls to PHE's Health Protection Teams since the start of the new school term. The new service, working together with Health Protection Teams, aims to ensure calls are handled promptly.'

Please note we will be following the instructions provided from this service in the event of positive cases in school. ***It will not be our discretion or choice to close bubbles or our whole school if we unfortunately have to do so, but that of the NHS Business Services Authority, whose guidance we will have followed.***

In managing the risk in school we may include additional control measures due to the current context of our school, some of which may be confidential and not disclosed to parents. For example; Awaiting results of a test for a staff member, awaiting results of a test for a child, a clinically vulnerable member of staff, high rates of COVID in Tameside (as we operate under their Health Authority) a member of staff who is pregnant or over 60, increased cases in the Glossop Area and so on. We have taken the decision at the moment that there will be no whole class singing inside for Y1 to Y6 children although they are able to do so outside. Reception children are singing in small groups inside close to well ventilated spaces or outside. ***We would respectfully ask that you trust and respect our decisions at this time.***

In the event of a bubble closure or whole school closure, we will be in a position to switch to remote learning by the end of September as we have had the Google Classroom handover and our staff are currently being trained. You will receive instructions of how to access this digital platform and your child's login details in the next few weeks. We will then communicate to you expectations for remote learning, setting work each day, feedback on work each day and a contact timetable for the class should this arise.

Thank you so much for your continued support and patience as it is most appreciated by all our staff team at this very challenging time.

Kind regards

Mrs Greaves

Headteacher

Mrs Ellison

Deputy Headteacher

