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15th October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

The end of the first half term is almost upon us and it doesn't seem five minutes since we started back in September after the long summer break. I am pleased to report that the children have settled in well in their new year groups and classes and with new staff as well in some cases. The Reception children who have joined us this year are now fully-fledged members of Surfleet primary school and it is like they have been here for years! Thanks to all the children, parents and staff for making sure that the beginning of this year's educational journey has been a positive one.

Thinking of the children's educational journey, the children are really enjoying our new, subject-based curriculum. Our intention is for all children to improve their depth of knowledge in all subject areas and then be able to apply this knowledge to enhance their learning. Even though we have only just started with this new way of learning, the children have embraced studying the different subjects and it has been fantastic to see their enthusiasm and also the quality of their work improve. I am sure that you will also see this when you visit the school which is evident when viewing the vibrant learning walls and displays. Hopefully your children will also be able to share their learning with you and you will be as impressed as we have been with their retention of the knowledge that they have been studying.

Parents' Evenings

This week we are holding our Autumn Term parents' evenings on the Tuesday and Wednesday (15th and 16th October). We listened to parents' views last year and you should have had much more notice this year with regard to when your time slot is. We really hope that you will make every effort to attend. These appointments are an excellent way to get a feel for how your child has settled into their new year group and it also gives you the chance to ask any questions that you may have. Even though we are a small school, the classes are still 'normally' sized and so both evenings will be full of appointments with very little flexibility. With this in mind, we ask that you remember that the appointments are **a maximum** of 10 minutes, which should be an adequate amount of time to discuss the aforementioned points. If, for any reason, more time is needed, or the discussions need to go into more detail, then it will be suggested that another meeting is scheduled in order to fully deal with the issues raised. Please do not take offence if this is suggested as we really want to avoid staff and other parents being held up at the end of a long and busy day. Thanks for your support with this.

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Parents' Views

I really hope that parents feel that the school and staff are approachable and happy to discuss any issues that may need addressing. I appreciate that there will be times where some parents are not happy with some aspects of what has happened at school and many other times there will be plenty to celebrate. The best way for us to continue to do the good things and to improve on the not so good things is for you to let us know! I have been fortunate enough to have had many conversations with many parents over the last 2 years, however I anticipate that parents don't always feel comfortable sharing all of their concerns. Quite simply: please do! Never worry that you won't be listened to or your thoughts won't be given due consideration; they will. Everyone – children, staff, volunteers, parents, etc. – who are involved with our school want what's best for our children, so please help us to help them by discussing any concerns with myself or the staff. Whilst staff may not be always immediately available, they are happy for appointments to be made through the office and you can always catch me on the door or arrange a meeting, whichever is more appropriate. The most appropriate way to arrange such appointments is to either call into the office or send an e-mail to admin@surfleet.lincs.sch.uk **Please avoid using individual staff e-mail addresses.**

Dates

Again, we have listened to parents' views regarding the arranging and sharing of dates of in school events and this year, we now have all of the dates planned in for the whole academic year. Of course, with forward planning to this degree there is a significant chance that some dates, particularly those towards the end of the year, could change. Also, there may be other events that arise throughout the year that we haven't thought of yet. With such events and also any changes to dates, our aim is to give you at least two weeks' notice so that it is possible that you can make any arrangements necessary. However, please bear in mind that sometimes when we can inform you of events and changes may not be down to us!

In school, we try and use a range of methods of communication to keep you informed of dates: informing children, texts to parents, e-mails to parents, flyers, posters in windows, PTFA Facebook page, newsletters and the school website. In order to keep yourself best informed, please follow this handy advice:

- Ensure that we have your up to date contact details, mobile number and e-mail address
- Check your 'Spam' folder in your e-mail
- Add our e-mail address to your 'Safe List'
- Check the 'Calendar' section of our website regularly

When an event is organised, even before we inform parents, the date will be added to the website's calendar. Without a doubt, this will always be the best way to keep up to date and therefore give yourself the maximum time to make arrangements for any future event.

Encouraging a love of reading

This year, we are giving reading more of a priority than ever before with a particular focus on reading for pleasure. Building on the success of reading mornings from last year, we will also be holding book sales/fairs, promoting the selling of books in the school shop, rewarding children for reading books for pleasure in and out of school and also launching the school library as a real library! Keep your eyes peeled for a letter coming out shortly with regard to the children being able to take books out of the library – we will need your written permission – and it is hoped that we will be able to start this straight after half term. I wonder who will get the roles of school librarians?

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PTFA

Many thanks to those of you who attended the recent PTFA AGM and especially those of you who have volunteered to run this important aspect of our school. Without doubt, our PTFA is a real strength of our school community and they have already planned in a number of events for the year. As last year, they will be supporting the Surf reward system and bank and shop, which is pivotal to how the children are rewarded within our school. This year, they would also like to support the school and children by providing new books for the library and playground equipment for all ages. Please show your support by attending the events that they have organised as ultimately any money received will be spent on your children with the aim of improving both their education and social time whilst at school.

Kit for PE and clubs

We have noticed recently that a number of children do not have their full PE kit or a suitable kit for clubs. May we politely remind you that, whilst we do provide spare kit for PE lessons to cover children forgetting or misplacing kit as a one off, it is parent's responsibility to provide kit. If children do not have their PE kit in school, we will ensure that you know at the end of the school day and we will expect that the missing items are replenished by the next PE lesson. Likewise, if children do not have the necessary kit and equipment for after school clubs, they will not participate and may lose their place in the club.

Dropping off/collecting children

A huge thank you to almost all of our parents who park conscientiously when dropping off or collecting their children from school. We would also like to thank those of you who supervise their children before and after school in a responsible manner. Whilst we are not responsible for the supervision of children before 8:45 and after 3:10 (unless in a club), we are still responsible for the health and safety of all people on site. With this in mind, please ensure that children are either stood with you or their friends and are not running around dangerously, climbing or using the school's equipment. Please support us in keeping your children safe.

Lost Property

I am very pleased to report that we have hardly any lost property in school! This is due in large part to the children being much more responsible for their belongings but also parents should be praised for labelling uniform, PE kit and coats clearly. This makes it really easy for staff to find the owner for any items of clothing which we find lurking around the school. Please double check all items of clothing to ensure these are clearly labelled and keep up the good work!

Dates to the end of the Autumn Term

Tuesday 15 th October	Parents Evening 3:15-6:00
Wednesday 16 th October	Parents Evening 3:15-6:00
Wednesday 16 th October	Harvest Celebration 9:30-10:30 at St Laurence's Church
Friday 18 th October	Reading with grandparents morning 11:00-12:00
Friday 18 th October	End of the first half of the Autumn Term

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Tuesday 29 th October	Start of the second half of the Autumn Term
Friday 1 st November	PTFA Hallowe'en Disco
Monday 4 th November	Football match v Gosberton at Surfleet
Monday 11 th November	Remembrance Service at St Laurence's Church 10:30-11:30
Friday 15 th November	Children In Need
Tuesday 19 th November	Boys' football tournament
Tuesday 26 th November	Girls' football tournament
Tuesday 3 rd December	Non-uniform day for Christmas Fair contribution
Friday 6 th December	PTFA Christmas Fair 3:15-5:00
Tuesday 10 th December	Class 1 Nativity performances 2:00-2:30 and 6:00-6:30
Tuesday 17 th December	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 18 th December	Christingle Service at St Laurence's Church
Thursday 19 th December	Last day of Autumn Term

Kind regards



Mr R Chipperfield

Head of School

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