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20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

What a year it has been! As we approach the end of this academic year, it is hard to know where to start. At the beginning of February, things were going really positively in school; the new subject based curriculum was progressing well, children were enthused about the different subjects and our school wide projections for the children's attainment at the end of the year were the best they had been for many years. By the middle of February, the school had endured an OFSTED visit and by the end of March, the school building had closed due to the coronavirus epidemic. From such low points, at least now we are moving forwards both as a school and as a nation. Whatever the future brings, rest assured that we will do whatever it takes to keep your children and our staff safe whilst ensuring that the education that we provide is the best it can be in these testing times.

#### **OFSTED visit and report**

I am so disappointed with the judgements made by the inspector and the wording of some sections of the report are very hard to take. I do not want to dwell on the report too much, as Mr Raistrick has addressed this in his previous letter, however I would like to answer some questions and concerns that parents have raised with me since the report was published.

#### **Can we have a parents' meeting to discuss the report?**

I only wish we could. Due to coronavirus epidemic, a whole school meeting is not something we can offer at the moment. This is very disappointing for us because a meeting would have presented the best opportunity for us to explain to you about the report and for parents to be able to ask relevant questions. For those of you who do have questions and haven't asked them yet, do not hesitate to contact me at school and I will gladly answer any questions you may have.

#### **Will the school close?**

Definitely not! However, because of the judgement made by the OFSTED inspector, the school will receive plenty of support via the Local Education Authority.

#### **Are any staff leaving?**

Thankfully no staff are leaving our school and everyone is on board and focussed on doing everything we all can to improve the school.

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### **What is the standard of education in our school?**

Whilst we have a few areas that need development, we all feel that the education that we are offering all of our children has improved dramatically over the last few years. The most recent parent questionnaires, completed in early February 2020, overwhelmingly agreed with this.

### **I have other questions and concerns!**

Not a problem at all. We have always welcomed queries from parents and this has not changed. Feel free to e-mail either the school or myself at any time with any question.

### **September 2020**

We are very pleased that all children will be back in school again from September! Whilst we appreciate that some children and parents will have varying degrees of anxiety and apprehension, which is understandable, it is our role to ensure that the transition back into school is well managed and as easy as possible for all. Outlined below is all the information you should need for when we fully reopen again on Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Classes**

At Surfleet Primary School, we believe that change is a good thing and something to be celebrated and embraced! With this in mind, we have new names of our classes and some of our staff are spreading their wings and bringing their experience to new age groups! Full details are as follows:

**Willow Class** – children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Staff: Miss Bates, Mrs Craft, Mrs Bills and Miss Gunter

**Maple Class** – children in Year 2, 3 and 4

Staff: Miss Stringer and Miss Thomson

**Oak Class** – children in Year 4, 5 and 6

Staff: Mrs Baxter, Mr Chipperfield and Mrs Quadling

Mrs Greenacre will be supporting a number of children and classes during the week also.

### **The School Day**

In order to help parents to socially distance and avoid congestion, the following procedures will be followed:

- The small gate between the office and playground will be closed and there will be no access to the playground from where parents can queue for the office.
- The main green gates will be open for entry to the front door of the main school building.
- The side gate, which is near the main staff car park, will be used for entry onto the rear part of the school.

Oak Class will have their drop off slot between 8:30 and 8:45. Children will enter through the fire exit near their classroom door so parents will enter the school grounds through the side gate near the main staff car park.

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Maple Class will have their drop off slot between 8:30 and 8:45. They will enter through the main door on the front playground so parents will use the crosses on the front playground to wait.

If parents have children who are in Oak and Maple class, then the older child will be expected to make their own way from the front playground to the rear playground; there is no need for the parent to 'bring' both children to their entry points.

The front door and rear fire exits will then be closed at 8:45. Nursery parents and children will now queue at the side gate for their opening time of 8:45 therefore our parents and children **should not** be using the side gate after 8:45.

Although Willow Class will not officially be open before 8:45, any parents who have children in either of the older classes and Willow class can drop their younger child off at the front door between 8:30 and 8:45.

Willow class will have two separate drop offs for the first few days: 8:50 to 9:00 for Year 1 and 9:00 to 9:10 for Reception. This is to ensure that new Reception starters can have more time for entering the school if they need it. Once the Reception children are happy to come in and have no separation issues, then they will be invited to come in during the 8:50 to 9:00 drop off. Hopefully, after the first few days, all children will be in and learning by 9:00.

Any children who miss their slot or are late will come in through the main door. Please report to the office as you normally would and then a member of staff will escort your child into school via the playground.

With regard to collection times, we will have a similar routine:

Willow class will be collected from the front playground between 2:55 and 3:05. Access and exit will be via the main green gates.

Maple class will be collected from the front playground between 3:10 and 3:20. Access and exit will be via the main green gates.

Oak class will be collected from the rear playground between 3:10 and 3:20. Access will be from the side gate near the main staff car park and children and parents and children will need to exit the rear of the school site via the front playground.

If you have children in different classes, then they will wait on one of the crosses on the front playground and their children will be brought to them. If you have children who have different pick up times, then please come at 3:05 so you only have to wait 5 minutes until your older children are dismissed.

**Please do not arrive at school before your allotted time so as to avoid congestion.**

#### **Important Reminder**

To help us keep the school a safe place, please remember to follow the rules below:

- children must stay with their adult at all times,
- scooters/bikes must not be used in the school grounds
- children must not go on the trim trail or use any equipment.

Please help us to minimise the chance of transmission.

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### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club will be up and running again from 8:00 to 8:30. Tables will be arranged so children in different classes sit 2m apart, but children in the same class can sit together. Children must stay in their seats at all times and can only read their school book. Any children who choose not to follow the rules will be asked not to attend in the future.

### **And Finally...**

After everything this year has thrown at us, please try and have a relaxing, stress free summer break with your children and wider family. Now, more than ever, we need those around us to keep us safe and happy! I look forward to seeing you all back again in September and I have no doubt that, within a couple of days, everyone will be back to enjoying school and learning.

Kind regards



Mr R Chipperfield  
Head of School

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