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Dear Parents/Carers

A New Year – A Fresh start

First of all, I would like to welcome you to the new school year here at Surfleet Primary School. I always look forward to September as it represents a fresh start and it's been great to see how enthusiastic everyone has been in starting this new adventure! Like some of the children, I am a new starter for 2017 and I certainly had a few butterflies on Tuesday morning! Already, the children have settled down into their new routines and class groups and the new starters appear to be finding their feet. With so much time at home over the summer, it always impresses me how quickly children can get back into the school routine. I would also like to make a special mention about the Reception children who have amazed me with their maturity and attitude to school in their very first week. Perhaps we'd better not tell them they've got the next 14 years in education!

A little bit about me...

I've been fortunate in my life to have worked in a variety of schools, in different parts of England, with children and young people from ages 3-18+. Whilst this is my first Head of School position, I have been a home tutor, Teaching Assistant and Class teacher covering a period of 23 years, so I bring with me a wealth of experience of working with and supporting children from a variety of backgrounds. However, I am also here to learn about the area, school and, most importantly, the people so that I can do everything in my power to help and support you all. I'm not one for moving around for the sake of it; I spent 10 years in my last school and previously worked in another school for 6 years. Hopefully, this means I'm here for the long term and I am 100% focussed on making this school a beacon for enjoyment and education where the children, parents and staff feel respected and valued.

As well as being a teacher, I am a dad, husband and ... football coach! I think these aspects of my life enable me to see the bigger picture that the school is one part of the children's lives (albeit a very important one) and that outside influences and interests are just as important as the ones we aim to provide within school. If we work together, we can make a huge positive impact on all of your children and I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming weeks.

Communication

Hopefully, your child's time with us will be a successful and happy one; that is everyone's aim at Surfleet Primary School. However, there may be times when you have concerns, questions or just need to share some information. We really value communication with parents as this gives us the chance to provide the best possible education and support for your child while they are here. If you need to discuss something with us, then your first point of call would be the office or whoever is on

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the door at the beginning of the day. From here, we will be able to arrange a suitable time for you to speak to the best person for your particular issue. On many occasions, the office may be able to answer your query and pass on any relevant information, however if it is a class based issue, you may need to meet with your child's class teacher. If it's just a brief word that you need, they do try to be available at the beginning or end of the day. Teachers are very busy people though, particularly in the mornings when the children are arriving and lessons are due to start, and often it's better to arrange a mutually convenient time so that you can have an uninterrupted chat. If the teacher feels that another meeting would be beneficial with other staff, then this will be arranged as soon as is possible. As Head of School, I am always happy to meet with parents if necessary, however, the class teacher would be the best person to discuss your child with in the first instance; they know them much better than I do! We love having your children in school but they are your children and you know them best, so only by working together can we do the very best for them. Children are expected to arrive by 8.45am when there will be a member of staff on duty to welcome the children.

Earrings

I just want to take this opportunity to remind you of the school's policy on earrings. In order to avoid unnecessary injury or pain, earrings should be stud only and need to be removed for PE and swimming lessons. It would be best if the children did not wear them at all on PE days so as to avoid issues with removal at school. However, if the child is happy and able to remove them themselves, this is acceptable. If earrings cannot be removed for any reason, please let the office know or send a letter so that we can use an alternative method to enable your child to participate in PE lessons. We are legally obliged to ensure that all children participate in both their PE lessons every week, so please help us to achieve this.

Swimming

Swimming arrangements have changed this year and now we are pleased to announce that all classes will attend swimming lessons over the course of the year. We will still be using the excellent facilities at the Spalding Swimming Pool and, we will be leaving school at 10:30am and returning by 12noon on a Monday. The timetable for the year is as follows:

Autumn Term – Class 3 (Darwin until 11th Dec)

Spring Term – Class 2 (Rowling)

Summer Term – Class 1 (Nightingale) + Y6 children who have not achieved the national requirement.

We have a legal obligation to ensure that all children leave primary school having had the opportunity to be able to swim 25m on both their front and back and this new approach will definitely improve the children's swimming ability and confidence. Swimming is a great way to keep fit and can also be a great deal of fun, as well as being an important life skill. We hope that you will do everything you can to support us with helping the children with this aspect of the curriculum. If your child can't attend swimming lessons for any reason, they will stay in school to take part in other curriculum learning.

The cost of swimming is £3.00 per week. This will need to be paid via your Parentpay account as we are a cashless school.

Swimming kit is as follows:

Boys' – Shorts (no longer than mid-thigh length), towel, swim goggles allowed in large pool only

Girls' – Full swim costume (2 piece not allowed), towel, swim goggles allowed in large pool only

Long hair to be tied back or swim cap worn. No earrings to be worn.

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PE

The days have changed for PE so please ensure your child has his/her full PE kit in school on the following days:

Class 1 (Nightingale)– Tues & Thursday

Class 2 (Rowling)– Tues & Wednesday

Class 3 (Darwin) – Tuesday

Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school from the beginning of the week for all week.

Attendance/Lateness

Please ensure your child arrives in school by 8:55am so that they do not miss out on the important start of the school day. Any children arriving after this time will be entered into the late book. We ask for your support in not taking children out of school for family holidays during term time as this is very disruptive for their learning. Please try to make appointments for the doctor or dentist, before school starts or after school. We appreciate that some hospital appointments are in school time which cannot be avoided.

If your child is ill, please notify the office by 9:30am so that we can account for them in the register. Children who have had sickness or diarrhoea should not return to school until 48 hours after the last bout –this is very important so that germs are not spread around school. If your child has been absent from school, the law requires a note of explanation on return. If a note or a telephone call is not received the absence has to be recorded as unauthorised absence. Please inform the school in writing- if

- your child has a contagious disease,
- you prefer your child to remain in school at playtimes for medical reasons.
- your child cannot take part in PE/swimming for medical reasons.

Contact Numbers

Please can you ensure that school is kept up-to-date with all contact numbers and email addresses in case of an emergency. We cannot stipulate how important this is for school to have the correct information.

If you move house please remember to give school the new details.

Kind regards



Mr R Chipperfield
Head of School

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Diary Dates

- 11th Sept – Class 3 swimming for 12 weeks
- 13th Sept – New reception children having photograph taken for Class of 2017
- 14th & 15th Sept – Science workshop for all classes
- 16th Sept – 11+ test day (Paper 1)
- 22nd Sept – Jeans for Genes Day - £1.00 donation to wear jeans to school
- 23rd Sept – 11+ test day (Paper 2)
- 29th Sept – Indian workshop for all classes
- 6th Oct – School photographs – individual and siblings 8.30am start
- 11th Oct – Class 1 school trip to Lincoln Museum – Dinosaur exhibition
- 16th Oct – Harvest Church Service – details to follow
- 17th & 18th Oct – Teacher/Parent meeting 3.30-6.00pm – appointment letters will be sent out
- 23rd - 30th Oct – HALF-TERM
- 31st Oct – Return to school – Term 2
- 8th Nov - Open Morning for prospective parents for children starting school in Sept 2018 – 9.30-10.45am
- 12th Dec – Class 1 Christmas Production – 1.30pm and 6.00pm
- 14th Dec – Class 2 Christmas Production – 1.30pm and 6.00pm
- 19th Dec – LAST DAY OF TERM
- 4th Jan – Return to school – Term 3
- 8th Jan – Class 2 swimming for 11 weeks
- 12th Feb – HALF-TERM
- 19th Feb – Return to school – Term 4
- 1st March – World Book Day
- 29th March – Last day of term
- 16th April – Return to school – Term 5
- 23rd April – Class 1 swimming for 11 weeks

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