



## *Summerfield School*

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Headteacher Pam Weston

12<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Welcome back to the new academic year at Summerfield. The children have settled in quickly and there is already a purposeful and productive atmosphere. Please remember that the children need to be in class before 9am. Classroom doors are opened at 8.45 and early morning tasks are set enabling a settled start to the day. It is very important that your child is in school on time as late arrivals are not only detrimental to your child's learning but also disrupts the class. Please remember to ring school each morning by 9am to inform us of any absence.

Parents may recall that our most recent OFSTED report identified high levels of absence as our most important improvement point. We have never imposed fines for unauthorised absence but are concerned that a significant number of children still take holidays in term time and some have returned to school late from the summer break. We have very clear guidance from the Department of Education that we are not to approve absence for holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please avoid booking holidays in term time.

### **Welcome**

The Early Years Team have completed the children's home visits. We welcomed the first group of children yesterday and they will all be in school full time by Friday 15<sup>th</sup>.

We have a number of new additions to the team. Mr Godwin has joined the Year 2 team; Miss Watt is sharing a Year 3 class with Mrs Mott; Mrs Kozanoglu and Mrs Stuart are working together in Year 5 and Miss Martin has joined the team as Sports Coach.

### **Safeguarding Update**

Following a site audit in July we have added a number of new safety features to the building. The work was carried out during the summer and includes bolts on internal doors and safety chains on the windows. This work was generously sponsored by a supply partner of Chiltern Railways thanks to a link with one of our parents, Karen Caruso. We regularly carry out evacuation drills and from this term we will also be practising Lockdown routines in case of the unlikely event of an intruder/intruders.

### **Mayditch Entrance**

It was noted during the site audit that a number of people not associated with the school are using the Mayditch gate as a short cut to the shop or beyond. This obviously presents a safeguarding issue particularly as this entrance is out of site of the main building. We understand that keeping this gate locked would inconvenience some families and we are working on a compromise. In the interim this gate will only be open for a short period at the start and the end of the day.



### School Meals

These are cooked on the premises and are tasty and nutritious. The government continues to fund free lunches for all children in Key Stage 1 and Early Years. Please encourage your children to take up a school lunch. If you decide to send a packed lunch for your child please ensure that it is healthy and well balanced.

Although the children in KS1 currently all receive Free School Meals, please be aware that you should still complete an application form if you are entitled. Subsidised costs would be available for school trips and visits and music lessons for children in receipt of Free School Meals.

### School Uniform

We are delighted that the majority of our children have returned to school wearing school uniform. Please remember that shoes need to be black and that children need a change of clothes for PE lessons. If your child's clothes are not labelled with their name it is virtually impossible to return lost property.

### Chicken Update

Thank you to those parents who helped to look after the chickens in the summer holiday and to those who have already volunteered to look after them at the weekends this term. If you would be interested in taking a turn please speak to the office. The chickens continue to lay four eggs a day and eight fresh eggs are a reward for your support.

### Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Celebration Assembly starting at 9:10am
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	School Choir attending Campbell Park
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Celebration Assembly
3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	School Photos
5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Harvest Festival starting at 9:10am Family Quiz Night at 6pm
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Celebration Assembly
13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Celebration Assembly
18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parents Evening 5pm – 7:30pm
19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6pm
20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Last Day of School
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Half Term
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	BACK TO SCHOOL
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS1 Christmas Performance at 2:30pm
7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS1 Christmas Performance at 10am
14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 Christmas Performance at 1:30pm – 3:30pm

TERM DATES	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon session
Autumn Term 2017	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> September Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> October Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> December
Spring Term 2018	Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> January Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> February Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> March
Summer Term 2018	Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> April Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> May Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> July