

4th September 2019

Welcome Back



Welcome Back,

We hope all our families have had a nice Summer break and enjoyed time with their children. Thank you to all the parents / grandparents / carers and families that attended our Summer open afternoon. It was lovely to see you and meet new faces too.

I wanted to write to keep you informed on developments in school. We were extremely proud of the Ofsted outcome in March 2019 but that does not mean that we will be 'coasting' or standing still! We have a busy academic year planned with lots more opportunities for our pupils. We are extremely keen to share that Ms Sheron has secured funding from a range of Grants to develop the music curriculum in school. We will be having a ukulele band in Orchard Class and hopefully performing within the community!

There will also be lots of other opportunities for other children to develop their music skills.

Elm Class (year Reception, 1,2 and 3)

Miss A Wallace continues to be the teacher for this class. She is welcoming 6 children back in her group this week and new children will be joining over the current weeks. Miss Ball, Mrs Helme and Mrs Smith all provide support for the group throughout the week.

Maple Class (year 3,4)

Miss Hunter has moved back to the year 3 & 4 class teacher this academic year. She has Mrs Worthington and Miss Glover supporting the class. Some of Miss Wallace's class have moved up into Maple Class this year.

Oak Class (year 4, 5, 6)

We welcome Mrs Katie Greenwood to our staff team. After teaching for many years at Sandylands Primary School she is keen to take on a new challenge and we know she is going to be an asset to our team! Mrs Greenwood will be supported over the week by Mrs Rossal, Miss Jones and Mr Askew.

The Orchard (Y5,6)

The Orchard class are taught by Mr Edwards, the vast majority of this class have stayed at Stepping Stones additional time in order to give them stability and structure. Miss Robinson and Mr Marshall will be supporting this class.

As always I am sure it will be a very exciting year! I know the teacher's have lots of exciting plans for their classes.



CURRICULUM AND LEARNING TOPICS

The first theme for the whole school is - OUR PRECIOUS PLANET

This year, for each half term there will be a whole school theme. Each class will then teach the curriculum requirements for that year group around the theme. It will be differentiated to meet the children's knowledge, skills and understanding and so that each class progresses in a different area.

Please look out on class dojo for home learning projects that you can get involved in with your child at home!

I am sure Mr Edwards will be asking everyone to take part in making Eco Bricks and making a conscious effort to REUSE, RECYCLE and REDUCE our Carbon Footprint.

We are keen to gain further Eco School Awards.

Key Updates

OUR SCHOOL RULES

We expect our children to

- **Be safe** with words and actions.
- **Be respectful** to everyone and everything.
- **Complete learning** to a high standard.

OUR CORE VALUES

KINDNESS

TOLERANCE

RESPECT

TRUST

Following on from further research and developments we have streamlined our school rules and have also made significant changes to our school policy for promoting positive behaviour and improved mental health of children. All of the changes are to improve pupil outcomes and to provide the best support, learning opportunities and improve our pupils' ability to self-regulate.

The changes include:

- Increasing the amount of time dedicated to teaching values, social skills, self-regulation and behavioural responses, all of which we aim to improve the positive mental health of our pupils.
- The new daily timetable no longer includes 'options' and consequence and repair time. Children now earn reward time sessions throughout the day: a "Now and Next" approach. As long as the rules are adhered to the children can earn their reward time. If they only did this 80% of the time then only 80% of the reward time could be earned—AS LONG AS LEARNING IS COMPLETE. There are 4 reward sessions to earn through the day. Additional reward time can be achieved on Wednesday's and Friday's Enrichment time. Any work that is not completed will be caught up in Enrichment time.
- The 5 step to Self-Regulation Model—All staff completed additional training on Positive Mental Health and Self-Regulation on the 2nd and 3rd September. We are introducing a 'Safe Place' in each class and a model for using 'Safe Places' around school. This is in line with the approach from Conscious Discipline and links to the Zones of Regulation Curriculum.
- We will continue to promote time for children to withdraw when a trigger has caused a big emotional reaction. This is part of the ability to walk away, take some time to regain control, choose what is going to help them and discuss ways of tackling triggers in more regulated safe ways. Adults have been trained in coaching children through the 5 step model.



Please look out on Class Dojo and in Newsletters for the Value of the Week and our new parental / home school agreements.

Positive Points

Pupils can earn up to 100 points per day. These points totals should be reported to parent / carer via the home school diary.

90-100 points	Is a very good day and should be highly praised at home.
85-90	A good day has made some positive choices in learning and behaviour. Is accepting of consequences.
Less than 85	A challenging day a phone call / message in the diary will outline the reasons.

Parental Engagement

We expect our parents / carers to...

- Promote the school values and rules. Implement the value of respect, kindness and trust within your home.
- Respect the teacher decisions.
- Ensure you read newsletters, letters, sign the consent forms.
- Let us know if your child is absent.
- Make sure they are in school and have a high level of attendance. (colds, coughs and sniffles are not excuses for absence)
- Make sure your child is in the correct uniform and that they have a PE kit to change into. Including correct footwear.
- We do not allow items from home to be brought into school e.g. toys, cuddly toys, pencil cases etc. Any sensory/ transitional items a parent feels is required from home needs to be discussed with the Headteacher.
- Watches can be worn as long as they are not distraction to the child's learning; no jewellery to be worn in school.
- Make sure your child has a healthy lunch. (If they are on packed lunches, no fizzy drinks, chocolate, sweets or fast food)
- Answer the phone when we ring or call back.
- Reiterate the message that hurting, spitting, swearing, assaulting, damaging is not acceptable.
- Sign up to the Parent App and Class Dojo to engage with school and to ensure you receive messages about trips, clothing etc.
- Ensure contact details are all up to date.
- Support the school by talking positively about what we do.
- Pay for the damage that your child causes.
- **If asked** to put in consequences at home, support the school and do this.
- Keep your child off social media, inappropriate games etc.
- Use your social media appropriately and not bring the school into disrepute.

Welcome Back Reminders



We are using Parent App and this provides a easy way to update contact details. The school office will be requesting updates for contact details. We need to ensure we have 2 numbers minimum that we can make contact with and where possible 3. This is in case of emergencies, but also to make contact with you if your child is absent. It is in line with DFE requirements for Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019. Please send back to school ASAP.

It is vital your child is in school to ensure they make progress. If your child is not in school because of illness / medical appointments you should inform the school office ASAP. If we have no reasons for absence we will be calling by 9:30am when the register closes for further information.

We will continue to monitor attendance on a termly basis and inform you of your child's attendance. If it falls below expectations we will be looking to set improvement targets with you and may involve the attendance support team.

95%	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days	ATTENDANCE MATTERS WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?
90%	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day	
85%	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days	
80%	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days	
BE SMART BE THERE! <small>Percentages based on 190 academic days</small>		

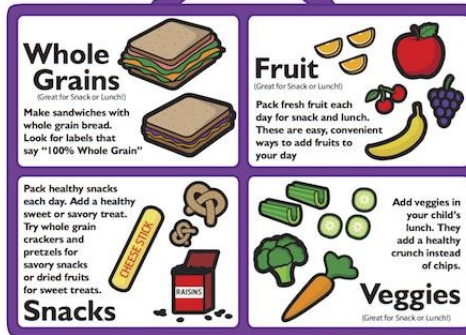
A Guide to Building...

Healthy Snacks & Lunchbox

P21P

Bring **WATER** everyday!

Putting tap water in a reusable bottle is FREE and will help keep your child hydrated all day!



School Dinners and Packed Lunches

All children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to a free school meal. Mrs Davies will be contacting parents from Y3– Y6 about eligibility.

The meals are provided by Moorside Primary and the children choose a week ahead. Senior Staff lead lunchtimes and monitor the children's eating habits.

We promote a healthy, balanced meal. If a child is on school dinners then they do not need a packed lunch.

A child should have one lunch not go between the two options.

If a child is on a packed lunch then the parent / carer must adhere to providing a balanced healthy lunch box. No fizzy drinks, no chocolate bars / sweets or anything with a high sugar content.



ClassDojo

We use Class Dojo app across the school. All the teachers use the app to share success, share work and our children's achievements. Parents can download the app and see their child's profile as well as whole school news.

If you have not signed up yet, please do!

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The standards of uniform last year dropped significantly. We expect every child to be in school uniform and have the agreed plain PE kit.

The expectation is...

Black or grey skirt, shorts or trousers.

White polo or shirt.

Blue Jumper

School Shoes or Black trainers - No heavy boots / shoes.

OR THE CHILD CAN REMAIN IN THEIR MAINSTREAM UNIFORM

