

# Summerhill Matters

## Message from the Headteacher

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A very warm welcome back to all our children, families, staff and governors.

We hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break and that you are all ready for an exciting year ahead at Summerhill.

### NEW TERM REMINDERS

As we are in the middle of winter we expect children to come to school with a warm coat. You may choose to send them in with a scarf, hat and gloves, too. Please make sure every garment is clearly labelled with your child's name.

It is very important that children attend regularly and on time each day. Attendance of 90% or under is considered to represent persistent absenteeism. Children must be on the playground *before* 8:55am when the bell rings.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education you need to talk to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Teachers spend over 5 hours per day with your child and so are best placed to respond to any queries. If need be, a member of the school's senior leadership team (Mr Lunt (Assistant Head), Mrs Padilla (Assistant Head) and Mrs Rannard (SENCO) may become involved. Mr Lunt, is the school's behaviour lead.

### Attendance

All monies sent into school must be in an envelope clearly labelled with Your child's name, amount enclosed and activity.

### SCHOOL NURSE DROP IN SESSION

The school nurse will be in school on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January between 08:45 and 09:15

### DATE CHANGE FOR YEAR 2 CLASS ASSEMBLY

Year 2 class assembly will now take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 9:10 am.



### Weekly

07.01.19 - 11.01.19

Reception	93.33%
Year 1	84.58%
Year 2	96.25%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	98.28%
Year 5	94.2%
Year 6	99.11%
School	95.06%



### School Matters!



WELL DONE YEAR 3!

## Dates for your Diary (Subject to change. Changes will be highlighted.)

Activity	Date	Time
First day of Spring Term	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	All pupils are expected to be on the playground before the bell rings at 8.55am
Forest School Reception	Every Monday	Afternoons
Year 5 Swimming this term	Every Monday starting 7 <sup>th</sup> January until Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019	Children to come ready for swimming. Leave school at 9:15am
Forest School Year 4	Starts Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Afternoons
Whole School NSPCC Assembly and workshops	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Morning
Military School Year 6	Every Monday starting 14 <sup>th</sup> January until 1st April 2019	Afternoon
Whole School Mad Science Assembly	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Morning
Whole School Healthy Lunch Week	21 - 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Lunchtimes
Year 2 Class Assembly	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	9:10 start
Year 3 World Museum Visit	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Morning
Year 4 Class Assembly	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	9:10 start
Whole School Science 2U Workshops	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	All day
Finish for half term	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	15:20
FSSA Friendship Disco	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	KS1 15.30 - 16.45 KS2 17.00 - 18.15
Philharmonic Hall Trip Year 4	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Morning
World Book Day	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	All day
Height, weight and Vision screening Reception Class	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Morning
10 Year 6 pupils and 3 staff to Valencia as part of the My Rights My Responsibilities Project	Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March - Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	
Whole School Science Week	11 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Various Activities within each year group
Swimming Gala (Selected pupils)	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	9 -12 Crosby
Parent's Evening	26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	15:30 - 18:00
FSSA Easter Bingo	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	18:30 - 20:00
Break up for Easter	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	14:00 finish

## ORACY PROJECT, ACQUISITION of VOCABULARY and LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

One of our focus areas this year is to develop oracy, language and vocabulary skills throughout school. Oracy is described as, *'the ability to express oneself fluently and grammatically in speech.'* Vocabulary is defined as, *'the body of words used in a particular language.'* Language is defined as, *'the method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way.'*

Research has shown that with the development of technology more and more children spend time in front of a screen than any other activity besides going to school and sleeping. Electronic entertainment does not encourage good communication. If we want our children to profit from education, we will have to enrich their oral language development both at school and at home.

In addition to 'Word of the Week,' (see below) there will be activities taking place throughout this year for your child to be involved in. Talking homework will also be sent home. I am sure you are aware that parents and carers play a crucial role in developing children's communication skills. Language plays an important role in the personal and social development of children. It helps them explore, establish and maintain relationships;. It enables them to share ideas, solve problems together, exchange experiences and show consideration and respect for others. Please see below for ideas on how to help your child with speaking and listening at home.

### How can I help my child with speaking and listening?

Set aside 5-10 minutes to discuss what has happened during the day.

Involve your child in conversations, plans and discussions.

Encourage your child to express and justify opinions.

Involve your child in adult conversations, when appropriate, to help develop an awareness of how others use language.

Provide a good listening model by showing interest in, and responding to, your child's contributions.

For examples use mealtimes for discussion.

Talk about topics of mutual interest and expect that your child will listen and respond.

Talk about special events or family celebrations and encourage your child to write thankyou letters, greeting cards or invitations.

Include the family in games which provide enjoyment and teach social skills, e.g. turn taking, explaining rules to another player, congratulating the winner.

Encourage your child to entertain the family with simple plays, puppet shows or jokes.

Ask your child to recount and evaluate experiences such as a day out or a weekly after school activity.

Establish a story-time routine.

Provide your child with a variety of texts such as traditional tales, comics, dictionaries, atlases, reference books.

Encourage your child to recite nursery rhymes, familiar poetry or part of a story.

Research the meaning of unfamiliar words and try to use them in your conversations.

Watch and discuss television programmes together.

Discuss the Word of the Week and encourage your child to share the word with different family members.

Participate with the talking homework.



We are aiming to increase the children's vocabulary by introducing a "Word of the Week" which will be on the weekly newsletter. This word will be used by all staff and children in general conversation as much as possible during the week. Please support this initiative by also using this word at home. To extend your child's vocabulary further, you could encourage your child to look up the dictionary definition, look up synonyms and write the word in several sentences. As always, your support is very much appreciated!

## **Meticulous**

(showing great attention to detail)

**Being a very meticulous person, Edward checks to make sure his uniform adheres to the school policy!**

### **ACTIVITY PASSPORT**

You may have heard about the Government's new initiative called "My Activity Passport". This is a list of activities aimed at each year group in Primary Schools.

The Department for Education states, "the activities are designed to be accessible so that every child and family can get involved and include milestones for each primary school year group."

You can find out what the government says here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/activity-passport-to-inspire-schoolchildren-and-boost-resilience>

As a school, we think this is a great initiative and we would encourage parents to involve their own child with the Activity Passport programme.

A free website <https://activitypassports.co.uk/> has been set up by to support anyone who wants to make full use of the Activity Passport, and this could be an important resource if you want to encourage your child to complete the Activity Passport activities. From this website you can download the Activity Passport.

We would appreciate it if you could send a photograph that shows activities you and your child are participating in. We will print some of these off for display and your child will use them as a prompt to 'talk about' the activity. This will link directly to our work on oracy, vocabulary and language development.

**SEFTON CATERING SERVICES** are looking to recruit mobile and temporary Catering General Assistants in school kitchens within the Southport, Birkdale, Ainsdale and Formby areas.

Hours vary but on average will be between 12.5 - 16 hours per week

Duties involve working with the kitchen team undertaking basic food preparation, serving and cleaning tasks.

Full training will be given.

Rate of pay: £8.78 per hour

If interested, please ring the **SEFTON CATERING HEAD OFFICE ON 0151 934 3417** for more details and to request an application form.

## CO-OP LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND

Thank you to the FSSA for completing the application form!

Friends of Summerhill School Association has been chosen for the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund.

The funding round started Sunday, 28 October 2018. From this date, Co-op members can choose a cause to give their 1% to when they spend on selected own-brand products and services.

The funding period will run for 12 months until the 26 October 2019.

Please shop at the Co-op and register us as your nominated charity. Ask your friends and family to register too!

## NSPCC VISIT

On Thursday 11th January, all the children from years 1 to 6 listened to presentations from the NSPCC as part of the NSPCC's national Speak Out Stay Safe programme. Further to this Years 5 and 6 also took part in subsequent workshops.

Whilst a difficult topic, children were give advice about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries. These presentations and workshops were delivered in a child-friendly, age appropriate way.

Throughout the day, all of the children behaved very maturely and the NSPCC staff were extremely complimentary about them all - we are all rightfully proud.

## TIPS FOR A MENTALLY HEALTHY 2019

Tip 1. Self-care, and lots of it!

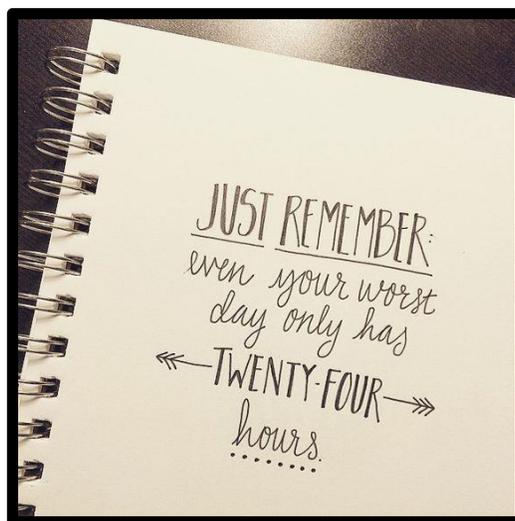
Tip 2. Know what motivates you.

Tip 3. Don't let the bad days win.

Tip 4. Be built up by people around you.

Tip 5. Keep talking.

**I was recently reminded of the following words by Deenah Lewis in Year 5!**



## LEAVE OF ABSENCE (HOLIDAYS) IN TERM TIME

We know that you, as parents/carers, want the best for your child and that having a good education helps to open up more opportunities in adult life. Bearing this in mind, I would like to include a reminder regarding the law relating to holidays taken during term time.

As parents, you have a legal duty to ensure that your children attend school on a regular basis. The Education Act 1996 makes it a criminal offence for a parent to “fail to secure their child’s regular attendance at the school”. On matters relating to term-time pupil absences, the Education (pupil registration) (England) (amendment) Regulations 2013, which came into force on 1 September 2013, removed all references to ‘family holidays’ and ‘extended leave’ as well as the ‘notional threshold of 10 school days.’ The amendments also make it very clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence (holiday) during term time unless exceptional circumstances prevail. The amendments give *parents no entitlement to take their child out of school for a holiday in term time* and require the Headteacher and Governing Body to determine what the exceptional circumstances are. Government guidance refers to service families only. Each request will be considered individually.

***A letter requesting leave of absence - stating the reason for the request, must be sent to the headteacher, well in advance of the planned absence.***

***Email requests may be sent to [admin.summerhill@schools.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:admin.summerhill@schools.sefton.gov.uk)***

It must clearly state in the letter what the exceptional circumstance is that requires the leave of absence being taken in term time.

On receipt of the request, you will be sent a response indicating whether the school is able to authorise the leave of absence or not.

Any requests made for a holiday to be taken in the academic year, which is not considered to be exceptional in circumstances, will result in a fine. If parents, contrary to what the school has said, still decide to take their child out of school for a leave of absence then the absence will be coded as unauthorised. This may lead to the school referring the matter to the Local Authority

PENALTIES FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE		
Timeline	One child	Two children
Paid within 21 days	£60 <u>per parent</u>	£60 per child = <u>£120 per parent</u>
After 21 days and before 28 days	£120 <u>per parent</u>	£120 per child = <u>£240 per parent</u>
After 28 days	The parents will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrates’ Court on the grounds the parents have failed to secure their child’s regular attendance	The parents will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrates’ Court on the grounds the parents have failed to secure their children’s regular attendance

## Holidays 2019-2020

	AUTUMN TERM 2019	SPRING TERM 2020	SUMMER TERM 2020
Term commences	Wednesday 4 September	Monday 6 January	Monday 20 April
Mid-Term Holiday	Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November	Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February	Monday 25 May to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June
Term Ends	Friday 20 December	Friday 3 April	Wednesday 22 July
Total No of Days 190	73	60	57

## REMINDERS

### Supervision on the Playgrounds

Please be reminded that the children are the responsibility of parents/ carers at the beginning and end of the school day. We kindly ask children not to play out after school as staff from 'After School Club' are waiting to start their clubs on the playground. Thank you.

### Sending Money into school

All money that is handed into school for payment of dinners, trips, 'make and bake' etc, **must** be sent in an envelope clearly marked with child name, class, amount and what the money is for.

***Please use a separate envelope for each lot of money.*** The money is placed in a box in class, delivered to the office for checking and recording. Any money passed into school that is not in an envelope will not be accepted.

### Dinner Money

Reminder that dinner money is **£10.50 per week**

### The start of the school day.

### Reception, Year 1 ,2, 3 and 4 doors in the morning

After half-term please will parents/ carers remain on the main playground area when the bell sounds and not walk their child to the door. There are still times that it can be daunting for some of the younger children to find their way in through large groups of adults. We aim to get the children into class quickly and settled ready to learn. Messages can be passed via the office, passed to a member of staff on duty or via a note to the teacher. We do appreciate that occasionally it may be necessary to speak directly to a member of staff from your child's class that morning. Let your child know if they have a letter or money to pass in and they can let their teacher know.

## Attendance and Punctuality Matter!

Most parents want their children to get on well in life.

Nowadays, it is more important than ever to have a good education behind you if you want opportunities in adult life. Children only get one chance at school, and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending school regularly and punctually.

Be here and be here on time!

## School Meals for Free PLEASE READ

### Are you missing out?

Prior to April 2018, children qualified for free school meals - and accordingly pupil premium - if you received any of the following benefits:

Income support

Income-based jobseekers' allowance

Income-related employment and support allowance

Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The guaranteed element of state pension credit

Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less

These benefits have now been rolled into a single benefit, called Universal Credit.

If you think you are eligible please do apply as not only will your child have their school dinner provided but school will also receive £1320 per pupil towards education.

### How to apply

There are 3 ways:

- Contact Sefton's School Admissions and Pupil Support Department on 0151 934 3456
- Apply online at [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)
- Come into school and we can provide the form

### Parent Mail and ParentApp

We do not ordinarily send paper copies of letters / newsletters. Most of our communication is done electronically. If you are not registered please contact Ms Graham / Mrs Higham in the school office so that we can keep in touch with you more easily.

### Summerhill Parent App

This can be installed on both Android and iPhone. Username: summerhill Password: summerhillparent

*It is up to you to keep us informed of a change of email.*

*Twitter @SummerhillL31*

### Change of Pupil Details

Please ensure any changes in your child's details e.g. contact telephone numbers, change of address etc. are reported to the school office as soon as possible. This information does need to be kept up to date for emergency situations.

### Leaflets

School will send home leaflets from time to time which may be of interest to parents and advise them of activities going on in the community, these activities have not been vetted by the school and the school is not endorsing the activity.

