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## SAFETY, WELFARE AND WELLBEING NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016

Welcome back to all our parents and in particular the new parents of our three Reception Classes. We hope that you have all enjoyed the summer break.

I am delighted to be able to welcome Mrs Yeoman who currently oversees attendance within school to the Welfare Team. She is looking forward to working with you and your children to help with any concerns you may have.

There have been some very important changes regarding attendance levels. The new minimum requirement for attendance has risen to 95%. Obviously we will be monitoring attendance of all children very carefully. The Local Authority Attendance Service in turn monitor our attendance system and meet regularly with Mrs Yeoman and will become involved when any child's attendance falls to 90%. Please remember to advise us of the reason should your child be absent from school for any reason. If at all possible we would ask that any medical or dental appointments are made out of school hours. We would also ask that if your child is absent and on medication then you ask the school office to photocopy any prescriptions or prescribed medicine labels that may support the absence. Please be aware that school will not authorise holidays within term time unless there are very special circumstances.

With attendance in mind our school policy with regard to return to school after a sickness or diarrhoea bug has changed. Children can now return to school **24 hours** after the last bout of illness. Children do need to be in class for registration at 8.50am. If they arrive after 8.50am they are recorded as late and after 9.15am as unauthorised absent.

This first newsletter of the academic year may be a good time to remind everyone of the behaviour system that we have in place as Southfields.

We work on a traffic light system, green being the least serious of issues going up to red being a much more serious offence. It is our policy to always advise parents if a child has received a light. In Key Stage 1 the class teacher will make you aware of any problems but in Key Stage 2 it is more likely that you will be advised by a telephone call. After receiving a light, in most cases the children will have work completed with them which is relevant to modifying their behaviour.

Again this year we will also have more children on very specific behaviour plans and we hope to be working more closely with them and their parents. We monitor our behaviour very closely within school and are constantly looking at ways in which we can improve our standards. There are Nurture Groups in both Key Stage 1 and 2 managed by staff at lunchtimes to help children who struggle with behaviour during unstructured time.

On a positive note we also have a very special 'Purple Light' which is issued to children when they have excelled in school. Children awarded this light are then invited to a treat and parents receive a special letter advising them of this achievement. We are aware already that some have been issued this academic year. Well done to those children who have already received this special award.

The children all look very smart in their uniform so a very big thank you to you all for encouraging the children to take pride in their appearance which we are sure has a positive effect on their behaviour and learning.

This year we have again provided all the children with water bottles. Staff clean, sterilise and then replenish them each morning with fresh water. We encourage the children to drink during the day to ensure they do not become dehydrated in the warm classrooms.

We do allow the children to go to the toilet as necessary but also remind them to go in break and lunchtime so that their learning is not disrupted too often with frequent toilet trips.

We organise School Nurse Drop In's to enable you to have regular access to chat to the nurse about any medical concerns. The first of these will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 9.00am – 10 am. We will also be arranging Welfare/Community Drop In's with local Councillors for Stanground. A list of dates for these meetings will be available from the school office shortly.

Each Tuesday and Thursday morning between 9.00am – 9.30am we are available for 'Pupil Drop In's' so that the children can chat to us if they have any concerns or issues.

We have had several parents enquiring about what is appropriate to put in lunchboxes. As a Health Promoting School we do not allow children to have sweets or chocolate bars. Crisps and wafer biscuits are appropriate occasionally but we do like parents to encourage children to bring fruit, salad items, carrot sticks, wraps, savoury snacks etc. We do appreciate that children can be fussy eaters and we do not want the children to be hungry and

miserable. If you would like any support or advice in respect of lunchbox foods, please do contact us.

We will be talking to the children in assembly shortly about healthy eating and lifestyles.

Whilst on the subject of food, can we please ask that if you wish to supply birthday cake to be shared with the class can you please buy individual cakes. These will then be handed out at the end of the school day. We do have children in school who have allergies and it is very important that staff are able to see the list of ingredient on the packaging. This policy has been put in place to protect everyone.

We have already had this term several complaints about parking and concerns about children's safety due to vehicles parking on the grass verges near school. This week a child was knocked off their scooter by a car door being opened when the car was parked half on and half off the road. We are also aware that one parent has received a parking ticket so please do use the 'Park & Stride Car Parks' at Glatton Drive and the Community Centre. Both are just a safe two-minute walk into the school grounds.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns or would like to meet with either of us please telephone the school office for an appointment.

Mrs H Dawson  
School Welfare Officer

Mrs H Yeoman  
Attendance/Welfare Officer

