

# Newsletter 1

Friday 11th September 2020

## In this issue:

- ◇ Welcome back and key messages
- ◇ Behaviour—RESPECT
- ◇ Drop off and collection arrangements
- ◇ Fruit
- ◇ Meet the teacher event
- ◇ Maths videos
- ◇ School communication
- ◇ Door access
- ◇ Headteacher roll of honour
- ◇ Staff News
- ◇ Water Bottles
- ◇ Viral TikTok video
- ◇ Social distancing in the alleyway
- ◇ Home learning and spelling
- ◇ Celebrating birthdays
- ◇ Forthcoming Dates

## Welcome back and key messages

It has been absolutely delightful to see the children back in school and we have been so proud to see them adapting to the new routines incredibly well. They were clearly very pleased to be back with their friends and seeing the many smiles on the faces of the children was a relief for us all, having spent such a long time away, for many of them. The children were a credit to the school and we look forward to supporting their learning this term. We did of course welcome our new Reception children this week, who all looked remarkably smart and ready for their first steps into education—what an exciting journey! Reception have been busily getting to know each other, their teachers and the school.

Thank you for sending your child/ren to school in their full school uniform—this really does make a difference to learning attitudes and behaviour, which I know you will want to support. Our key messages to the children this week have been around our rule of 'RESPECT' and there has been an emphasis upon this during assembly time and throughout learning. You will hear staff making reference to this during informal conversations with the children and hopefully your children will have been talking with you at home about how they can contribute to a respectful school community at Sutton.

We have of course also welcomed some new members of staff to the school, who are Mrs Lennon (teacher in Zircon Class) and Mr Sewell (teacher in Citrine Class) and they have already made a positive contribution to our team. After a short spell away from Sutton, Mrs Jeeves (teacher in Carnelian Class) has also returned on a part time basis. We look forward to working together with them.

As always, there are a few important key messages to cover in this e-mail, so your co-operation in reading through the information contained in this newsletter and adhering to it, would be much appreciated.

Mrs Jarman

## Behaviour—RESPECT

We are currently reviewing and improving our behaviour management policy and approaches at Sutton and these are now in their draft stages, and pending approval by the Governing Body in the forthcoming weeks. The updated policy and practice will reflect one main expectation upon children who learn at the school and that is the value of RESPECT. We have been talking to the children about this expectation and how important it is that we create a respectful school community at all levels, with emphasis upon respect for ourselves, for each other and for our environment.

The new version of the policy will focus upon clear and staggered approaches to managing behaviour and will clearly set out the school's educational consequences at all levels, including when and how we notify parents of behaviour concerns. Once the final version has been approved, we will be sharing this with you. In the meantime, staff have been practising approaches from the draft policy.



## Drop off and collection arrangements

As per the previous communications to parents, we would like to remind you that pick up and collection times at the school should only be attended by **ONE** parent/carer. In addition, we would ask that parents at the gates observe social distancing and that they arrive **ON TIME**, rather than too early or too late, to avoid what may be considered a public gathering. As you will be aware, the school has put in place temporary staggered start and finish times so that we can avoid large gatherings outside of the school and there may be another tranche of parents waiting to arrive, so your co-operation in moving along **STRAIGHT** after drop off would be greatly welcomed.

## The national fruit scheme

The national fruit scheme resumed for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 this week. As part of this, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be offered a free fruit snack at school. All other children should be provided with a piece of fresh or dried fruit or vegetables (not fruit winders, crisps etc.)



### Meet the teacher events

Next week, we have our virtual 'Meet the Teacher' events planned, for which you will have received a Zoom invitation for. The teaching staff will be using this as an opportunity to share their classroom expectations with you, as well as other key messages. We are aware that the event for Year 3/4 clashes with Reception, however this was unavoidable due to other meetings taking place on the other evenings. We would advise parents who have children in both year groups to log into the Reception presentation if they do not have another family member or friend who is able to log onto the Year 3/4 presentation at the same time. Please see the 'forthcoming dates' section if you need to check your time.

### Maths videos

We know that for many parents, the prospect of helping children with their maths at home can sometimes be daunting. The modern curriculum and teaching methods have changed over time and we often hear parents saying 'This isn't how I was taught at school'. In an effort to help you understand the maths curriculum and better support your child, we have produced a number of demonstration videos that will be launched this term and included on the school website at <http://www.sutton.cambs.sch.uk/website> and which can be located on the 'parent's pages' tab. Here you will be able to see and listen to a teacher presenting a maths concept/strategy and explaining how to apply this. A new video will be added each fortnight. We hope you find these useful.



### School Communication

At Sutton, we aim to provide parents with information in a timely and sensitive manner. Currently, we appreciate that face to face contact with members of school staff has to be limited, but we do not want this to detract from your ability to communicate with us. The two main methods of communication with the school are through MCAS and Class/School Dojo. We have elected to use Class/School Dojo as an alternative to any other social media platform (including Facebook) as this is designed for educational settings and provides a much more secure platform. You can of course also contact the school by telephone to speak with any member of staff. Most correspondence will now be sent via MCAS (and/or) Class/School Dojo.

We are very concerned about the emergence of some Facebook pages that parents have decided to develop to share their own information about the school and which appear to look as though they are run by the school. Please be aware that the school does not operate a Facebook page and does not endorse the content on such pages.

In our efforts to work in partnership with parents and the school community, we would like to encourage you to contact the school if you have a query so that we are able to provide you with the right information. We would also request your co-operation in ensuring that school correspondence is not published on social media, without prior permission from the school.

We look forward to working together with you in a supportive capacity.



### Door access

In order to improve our safeguarding arrangements, please note that there is now only one entry into the school office, that is by the side of the Main Hall. Whilst many of you will not be accessing the office at this time, we felt it would still be important to let you know about this change. The door leading off of the playground is no longer in use for parents to enter and is protected by a key fob entry system.

# Headteacher roll of honour

Each week, I will be nominating children from around the school, whom I have noted for their particular efforts or achievements. These children will receive a special mention in the newsletter and will also receive a special postcard home in recognition of their ongoing commitment to learning and to our core value of RESPECT. We would like to thank them for their commitment to our values and for striving to be the best that they can possibly be.

**Belle in Citrine Class**—I have enjoyed talking to Belle this week about our shared interest in the country of Italy! It has been a pleasure to hear her talking to me so eloquently and so respectfully about a mutual link.

**James in Emerald Class**—James has impressed me this week, by always being ready to learn. This has meant that he has been able to get on with his learning quickly and independently. Excellent work James, we are very proud of you—keep up the good work.

**Dawn in Zircon Class**—Dawn embraced teacher feedback this week and has been working very hard on showing signs that she is ready to learn. I have had several discussions with children this week about the importance of body language and she has active-

## Staff News

Congratulations to Miss Watts on the birth of her son, who arrived this week. Baby Archie was born on Tuesday and both mum and baby are doing well. We look forward to meeting her new arrival and wish her lots of joy and happiness with her growing family.

## Water Bottles

Thank you to parents for co-operating with our new arrangements for water bottles. In our efforts to reduce the amount of belongings transported between home and school for COVID reasons, we are requesting that the bottle used for water during the day by the children, is kept in school. To reassure you, these bottles are emptied of water each day and the children re-fill them the following day. The bottles are also rinsed with hot water daily—water bottles will then be sent home on a Friday. Other items such as books may be sent home as we have allowed for a quarantine period for these items. We clearly have to send home lunch boxes/bags each day so that these can be re-filled as necessary at home. All children are permitted to have a separate drink of squash in their lunch box/bag and for those who are entitled to a Free School Meal, this is included as part of the meal on some days. If your child cannot drink only water throughout the day, for medical reasons, please provide us with information from your child's GP and we will be happy to support you with this.



### Viral TikTok video

We are aware of a real and particularly nasty viral post going around on TikTok. The company are dealing with the situation and it should be cleared within the next few days. Incidents such as this may be streamed on other social media sites and despite efforts to shut down these accounts, others may be uploaded and new accounts may be created on an ongoing basis.

The age guidance for TikTok says that children under the age of 13 should not be accessing this site, however we are aware that some families choose to use this platform. We therefore have the following advice:

- Do not mention this to children. Whether something becomes viral or not relies on this very curiosity for engagement, and children are curious. Equally, to some it may be a trigger.
- Have a general discussion with children about what they would do, who they would talk to etc. if they see something concerning.
- Remind them that it is never their fault and they can always ask for help. Give them opportunities to talk.



If you have any concerns then please do speak with us or you can find advice by accessing the 'Thinkuknow' website at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

### Social distancing in the alleyway

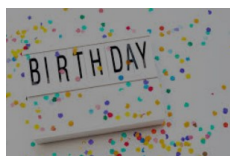
We are aware that many parents use the alleyway that is located between Bellairs and The Brook to cut through to the various school gates. You will probably know that this can be an area of congestion, which doesn't pertain well to social distancing. As this area does not belong to the school, we are limited in what we are able to do in order to manage this, however we are liaising with the Cambridgeshire County Council about approaches they may take to support with assisting parents to socially distance where possible.

In the meantime, we would suggest that if a parent is coming along in the opposite direction, that a polite 'give way' approach is used. Alternatively, it is possible not to use the alleyway and to divert around Bellairs if time allows.

### Home Learning and spellings

Home learning menus for all children in Years 1-6 have now been posted onto Class Dojo and uploaded to your child's class page on the website. From next week, spellings will be shared on Class Dojo. Your child will be receiving a home learning exercise book, if they haven't received this already. These homework books should be KEPT AT HOME and a copy of the home learning menus will be stuck into the front of the books. Each week, children will be tested for the spellings on a Monday. Please upload a piece of your child's home learning (from the menu) and some examples of their spellings practice at home. Teaching staff will acknowledge home learning by each Thursday.

### Celebrating birthdays



This year we will be observing the school policy of birthday book donations.

When it is your child's birthday, we politely request that you donate a book that your child's loves to the school (either a new or old book). The book will be read aloud in class and will subsequently be labelled with a special birthday sticker and placed in our lovely library.

Alternatively, your child can bring in their favourite book for a read aloud and then take it home at the end of the day. Any students who bring in sweets for birthdays, will kindly be asked to take the sweets back home as we need to be mindful of healthy eating and dietary restrictions for various students.

### Forthcoming Dates

w/c 14th Sept—Jeans for Genes week (children **will not** be required to wear jeans this year)

w/c 14th Sept—Reception children stay all day

Meet the teacher (all between 5-5.30pm):

-14th Sept—Reception & Years 3 & 4

-15th Sept—Years 5 & 6

-17th Sept—Years 1 & 2

14th Oct—Parent consultation evening (more details to follow)

16th Oct—Harvest celebrations (in school event this year)

20th Oct—Parent consultation evening (more details to follow)

23rd October—Training day (school closed to children)

w/c 26th Oct—Half term (children return on 2nd Nov)