

# Springfield Primary School



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Headteacher: Robin Grover

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Dear parent/carer,

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holiday period with your family.

## **Arrangements for the end of the school day:**

As from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January our school gates will open at 3.10pm for parents and carers to wait in the coned area of the playground. This is due to the successful change that was implemented last term and your co-operation in meeting our high expectations, thus helping us to ensure that our pupils are collected safely and by the right person.

After listening to concerns from a small number of parents about road safety whilst waiting outside the gates, we have decided to open the gates 5 minutes early to alleviate any crowding that may happen on occasions. In order to help this, please try not to turn up any earlier than 3.10pm as this will just move the problem to earlier in the day and will not improve safety, as is our intention.

This is a trial period and I would ask that all parents, carers and siblings of pupils respect the schools request for you to remain in the coned area until Mr Grover, Miss McNab or Miss Kular invite you forward to collect your children. If we find that the safety and good order of our procedures is jeopardised we will have no alternative but to return to a 3.15pm opening time.

## **A polite reminder:**

Please ensure that you are on time to collect your child. We must have your permission and full details in advance if someone else is coming to collect your child.

If your child is attending a club it is automatically assumed they will be collected by a parent/carer. If this is not the case parents must inform school of the arrangements they wish for their child. As with the end of the day, late collection procedures will be followed 10 minutes after the end of the club.

If a child is not collected at the end of a session we will follow our school procedures. If we cannot contact parents successfully, Social Services may be contacted. Please refer to our website for full detailed procedures.

## **School Uniform and PE Kit.**

As mentioned before Christmas, please ensure that you have looked at the School Uniform policy on our website. A link can be found in the 'Parents' section. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform to and from school.

All teaching staff have been asked to speak with parents as necessary to make sure that the correct, clean, PE kit is being worn for all PE lessons. This will apply to all students. If a child cannot participate due to injury, they should be asked to act as a coach or an official and therefore they should still bring and wear PE kit. It is important that all students have access to high quality PE lessons on a weekly basis and that they experience a number of roles, not just as a performer.

**Attendance and Penalty Notices issued:**

Our attendance as a school is slowly improving. Our target for every pupil is 100%. Over the next few weeks I will be meeting with parents whose children have already had 10 or more unauthorised days off, so that we can work together to improve their attendance. I will be working with the Local Authority to specifically target those parents who are not meeting our expectations and their legal obligations as parents to ensure their child attends school, as opposed to parents and pupils who have genuine reasons for absence.

***The Local Authority has recently issued 37 Penalty notices to parents for unauthorised absence in term time. Each penalty notice is £60 per parent, per child.***

***We have also received notification from the Local Authority that a recent court hearing involving the parents of children attending our school, resulted in the Magistrate imposing a fine of £40 per defendant, per child, cost of £126 and a victim surcharge of £60; a total of £426 for not ensuring that children attend school regularly.***

The message here is a very simple one. Please ensure your child attends school during term time and do not take them out of school unless it is absolutely unavoidable. We will continue to assess each request on an individual basis. Please do not assume that it will be granted. My job is to protect your child's right to their education.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and continued support. I hope you are as excited as we are about the future of our school. There is still much work to do.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rob Grover