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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Sabden Primary,

Another end of year letter which means the end of yet another year.

It's always mixed feelings at this time of year; we look forward to the break, hopefully a well deserved holiday and spending time with family and friends. On another level though, we frantically try to get loose ends tied up, write reports, and generally try to fit in a months worth of work into just a couple of weeks. Hey ho, it's the same every year and just part of the mad cycle of working in a primary school.

And of course, the end of the year gives us a chance to reflect on what we have done in the last 11 months or so. I believe that children at Sabden are very lucky – our small school really is like a big family; happy, loving and safe. Our high attendance rates are testimony to how much children enjoy coming to school as well as their excellent behaviour, their willingness to get involved and their care and friendship amongst not only their peers but with staff also.

When I look back at the range of events, trips and activities that are provided for the children again I say they are very lucky. The creativity of our curriculum and the opportunities we take to provide exciting learning make this, as Ofsted stated “a special place for children.”

Our attainment in ‘the three r’s’ remains good, well above National and Lancashire averages but what makes me the proudest is that on top of this we still provide children with plenty of opportunities to develop their creative talents such as our Artist in Residence, the fantastic Lizi Pickup, our specialist music providers with drumming, percussion and singing, our KS2 involvement in Young Voices, school choir, singing in the community and our performances throughout the year with the Infant Nativity, KS2’s Joseph and our very popular Music assemblies.

This year we have provided the children with weekly specialist PE coaching, have spent a large amount of school’s PE budget on PE and Sports training for all class based staff, provided the opportunity for all KS2 children to take part in weekly swimming sessions and have put together a small Football Team. We have had indoor curling sessions from the England Under 21 coach, some children have been coached by Manchester United and members of the National Quidditch Team (yes, there is such a thing) came in during Hogwarts Week to challenge the children.

Headteacher Elizabeth Maskell
B.Ed (Hons), N.P.Q.H.

Next year (23/24) we will be providing more opportunities for children to take part in competitive sports across the district and so will be calling on willing parents to help with transport and supervision. Our own internal school surveys show that girls are under-represented in out of school sports clubs and so we will be ensuring that we have a weekly after school games/ sports/ physical activity session for all girls in KS2 on Wednesday evenings. As ever, if there is anyone out there that fancies giving an hour of their time a week coaching football we would be eternally grateful.

In just a few short days we say adieu to our Year 6 young people once again and once again I can honestly say what a marvellous group of individuals they are. Hand on heart they have been just wonderful throughout their time with us and I feel very fortunate that I have the privilege of knowing them. I came to Sabden when this Year 6 cohort were in Year 1 and so have seen them grow into such wonderful human beings. Both us at school and you at home must be doing something right! Well done Hafsa, William, Jaice, Robyn, Jacob, Imogen, Georgie and Ava. You will be missed but exciting times are ahead so make the most of it, work hard, enjoy what high school has to offer and please, please, please say hello when we see you out and about. Take care my little loves X

I would also like to say a great big thank you to all the support we get from you, our parents, grandparents and friends. We are always thrilled when we get positive comments about what or how we are doing and a simple 'thank you' really does make our day. We are lucky at Sabden that so many of you take such an interest in the school and of course your child's educational life. I have worked in several schools where apathy and the lack of respect for education has unfortunately been the norm so it is always lovely to see how many of you care. Keep coming to events, attending parents' evenings, 'popping in for a word', hearing your child read (really important, really, really important!) and do let us know if there is anything we can be doing better.

I have attached the arrangements for next year onto this letter so apologise for the lengthy nature but at least you will know what is going on.

I will also be sending out a parent questionnaire before we break up for summer so please spend a few minutes filling it in and sending back by Thursday 20th July.

And lastly, have a great summer break. For those of you going away have a great time and for those of you staying around at home enjoy our lovely part of the world and I hope the sun shines down on you.

See you on the 4th September, same place, same time.

Best wishes

Elizabeth Maskell

Arrangements for 2023 - 2024

CLASS STRUCTURE

This remains the same as this current year with no noticeable changes.

EYFS – Nursery and Reception children. Mrs Jackson will continue as the EYFS class teacher.

There will be 11 children in this class with a few Nursery children in part time.

Class 1 – Year 1 and Year 2. Mrs Cole will continue as the class teacher. There will be 25 children in this class.

Class 2 – Year 3 and 4. Miss Lofthouse is continuing as the class teacher. There will be 28 children in this class.

Class 3 – Year 5 and 6. Mrs Murray also continues her role as the class teacher. There will be 22 children in this class.

Teaching Assistants will be deployed to support pupil needs and rather than being attached to a class will travel around school where it is most needed.

PE DAYS

Children should wear their 'PE Uniform' on PE days.

Wednesday – Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3

Friday – Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3

Reception children take part in some sort of physical activity every day whether that is a formal PE lesson, a forest school activity, a run about in the playground or an active learning session.

TIMINGS

Timings for school remain the same.

Start of the day: Gates open 8.45am, into school for 8.55am.

End of the day: Nursery and Reception finish at 3.20pm, parents can go up to the EYFS playground gate to collect their child (please do not go into the yard or classroom). Years 1 to 6 finish at 3.30pm and leave school by their respective doors on Whalley Road.

LATENESS/ ATTENDANCE

Our school attendance target for the year 2023 - 2024 is 97%. Children who are below 95% are monitored within school and children with an attendance rate of 90% and lower are regarded as a cause of concern. For 23/24 we will be requesting support from Lancashire County Council attendance scheme to work with families where attendance is an issue (i.e.90% or lower).

For the vast majority who get your children to school on time I thank you. However, some children are continually late for class – this disrupts the other children, is embarrassing for your child and frustrating for the teacher as she has to explain the learning again to the late child. Any child who is late to school and has missed learning will be expected to stay in at the next playtime to catch up. If the child is so late for class and has missed a large chunk of learning unfortunately this will be hard to address and will undoubtedly make a difference to their progress.

As Headteacher it is my responsibility and duty to manage school attendance, it is part of my job. Please do not get offended if I need to talk to you about your child's attendance.

IN TERM HOLIDAYS

Unfortunately, we do not authorise holidays taken during term time, unless there are very exceptional circumstances. We value the education we give to the children and feel the consequences when the child has missed large chunks of learning.

COLLECTION OF CHILDREN IN NURSERY AND RECEPTION

Any child in these classes must be collected by a young person/ adult aged 16 years and over and not another child. Previous arrangements with some families will not be able to continue and all children within the ages stated above will need an adult to collect them. We will be sending out a 'collection contract' very soon so that we can avoid any sort of confusion that might arise.

ENRICHMENT CLUBS

Unfortunately, school staff will not be running any after school enrichment clubs during Autumn Term 23. School staff will be volunteering their time to get on with the jobs from the cancelled Volunteer Day in June 23.

We will however continue to have a sports club running across the year and a choir. Both of these clubs will be invite only: the sports club will be for underrepresented girls from Y2 to Y6 and the choir will be for KS2 pupils who have shown eagerness in singing and music lessons across the year. Invitations will be sent out before we break up for summer.

Hopefully we will resume clubs in Spring/ Summer 24.

In the meantime we have an exciting timetable of after school events for both children and families that the Parent & Families Association are organising. Look out for the What's On in September.

UNIFORM

No changes here. Please make sure that new Year 6 children switch to a jade green jumper (from Gray's) and that nursery children coming into reception class switch to the red (again, can be bought from Gray's).

On PE days children will continue to come to school in their PE kit uniform.

We have a large collection of lost, unnamed jumpers and hoodies that we are selling. All items will have been washed (but not ironed!) and will be available to buy on Wednesday 19 July at 9.00am in the school hall. Grab a bargain while you can.

If anyone wants to donate any items that are still wearable please drop them off at the office and we can make use of them.

BREAKFAST CLUB

We continue to provide early morning care for all pupils from Reception to Year 6 at £5.00 per session, with a 10% discount for siblings. Sessions start at 7.30am until 8.55am and breakfast is served from 7.30am until 8.20am. Children arriving after 8.20am will not be given a breakfast as the group goes out for morning outdoor activities at 8.30am.

Children arriving after 8.30am should go to the main school gate to be let in.

Mrs Dobson is sadly leaving us at the end of term. We thank her for her service to the school and for looking after our bleary eyed early morning children so well. Kath and Dave from the kitchen will be taking over the reins as of September so at least we have familiar faces for the children every morning.

SCHOOL DINNERS

School dinners or packed lunches need to remain the same for the full half term. At the end of each half term parents can choose to change their child's meal plan.

Nursery children must pay for school dinners each Friday for the following week.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils receive government funded Universal Free School Meals and parents do not have to pay. If you do not want this meal you should opt out and let us know that your child will be having a packed lunch.

Years 3 – 6 children must pay for school dinners each Friday for the following week.

Please use parentpay to pay for school meals in advance. As numbers are sent to the kitchen the week before there will be no facility to feed a child whose parent has not paid or who has forgotten their packed lunch.

Free School Meals – payment is taken care of by school. You do not need to pay for school meals. However, if your FSM child does not want a school meal you will have to provide a packed lunch at your own cost.

If anyone thinks they might be entitled to a free school meal (even if they are universal free school meals) please apply. The more children on free school meals means more money for school which means more exciting things and creative learning can take place. There is nothing to lose by trying and maybe lots to gain.

PAYMENTS

Please note that all payments need to be paid in advance. This includes breakfast club, trips, events etc and within the deadlines.

STATUTORY ASSESSMENTS 23/24

Reception Baseline Assessment:

Children starting Reception class in September 2023 will continue to take part in statutory baseline assessments. These checks are done within the first 6 weeks of the child entering school. No numerical score is shared with school and the data will only be used at the end of year 6 to form the school-level progress measure by the DfE.

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

The phonics screening check will remain statutory. While there will be no legal duty on local authorities to moderate KS1 teacher assessment, they will still be required to monitor the phonics screening check.

KS1 SATs (Year 2)

End of key stage 1 (KS1) assessments will no longer be statutory from the academic year 2023 to 2024 onwards. The necessary legislative amendments have now been made and will take effect from 1 September 2023.

The following KS1 assessments will become optional:

- teacher assessment judgements in English reading, English writing, mathematics and science
- tests in English reading and mathematics (the English grammar, punctuation and spelling test will also remain optional)
- where relevant, using the pre-key stage standards or engagement model

There will be no legal requirement for schools or local authorities to report KS1 teacher assessment data. There will also be no requirement to report results from end of KS1 assessments to parents. As with other years in which there are no statutory assessments, there will still be a requirement for headteachers to provide an annual report to parents or carers about a pupil's general progress in year 2 which we already do annually with the Annual Pupil Report.

The reception baseline assessment (RBA) will replace the end of KS1 assessments as the baseline for cohort level primary progress measures. This will happen when the first cohort with a statutory RBA reaches the end of key stage 2 (KS2) in 2028.

Sabden Primary School may decide to undertake optional tests in Year 2 but that has yet to be decided.

Year 4

The multiplication tables check (MTC) is statutory for all year 4 pupils registered at state-funded maintained schools, special schools or academies (including free schools) in England.

The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics.

KS2 SATs (Year 6)

KS2 (Key Stage 2) SATs are compulsory national tests for all Year 6 pupils in England. The tests challenge children's English and Maths skills in comprehension, spelling, problem-solving and more. KS2 SATs measure children's individual achievement. However, across an entire year group, KS2 SATs provide insight into individual schools.

- English Reading
- English Grammar
- Punctuation
- Spelling
- Maths

SCHOOL RE-OPENS 8.50AM MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2023