



THE ARUN VILLAGES FEDERATION

Enabling every child to thrive and succeed

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Gibson

Chair of Governors: Mr Ray Jackson

Friday May 21st 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the mid-point of the summer term, this is a quick update for you.

Covid

I hope you are enjoying the easing of restrictions now that May 17th has passed. Personally, I'm not planning to leave the U.K. just yet nor am I in a hurry to return to the pub (other than for the Champions' League final, perhaps!) but it is lovely to be able to have friends and family visiting again. Whilst the children are probably now seeing more of each other outside school than they were, the advice and instructions to schools has not really changed. We still have to work in bubbles and keep contact to a minimum, which is a little frustrating, but we will of course continue to do as we are asked. It has been amazing that we have managed to keep both schools free of Covid, which is due to the whole school community playing their part in following the rules. We have really appreciated your patience and co-operation throughout this year, so many thanks to you all.

For now, therefore, all our procedures will stay as they are, although we may be able to allow the children to play together on the field after half term. Mrs Martin and Mr Armitage will let you know about any changes within their own schools. In terms of drop-off and pick-up, it will continue to be prudent to wear a face covering if you are waiting with groups of parents, but we will leave this to your discretion. Whether or not you choose to continue to wear a mask, we ask that you do still ensure that you stand and walk at least two metres away from other households, just to reduce as far as we possibly can any risk of transferring infection.

We are hoping that there will be a relaxation in school from 21st June, provided all is going to plan nationally, but in the meantime, let's all keep doing everything we can to prevent any spread so that we don't put at risk all the lovely whole-school events we have planned for the last few weeks of the school year.

Staffing

Although it is still only May, our thoughts are beginning to turn towards September, and we are aware that yours are too. We have had one or two enquiries about class teachers for next year. Schools can never be sure about their staffing until June at the earliest for various reasons. We have been working hard on setting up a leadership team for the federation and its schools as well as looking at class organisation for next year. We aim to provide you with a full staff list for both schools as soon as we possibly can after half term, and this will include a clear contact list so that you know exactly who can help you with any question or concern you may have. There will then be transition activities so

that children can meet their new teachers and see their new classrooms if either of these is changing, and new children to the schools are able to make their induction visits. We ask for your forbearance until then!

Behaviour Survey

Thank you so much to all those parents and carers who contributed to our behaviour and values survey. We had a very pleasing response with lots of positive, helpful suggestions and thought-provoking comments.

Following input from staff, governors, parents and children, we ended up with a very clear list of the five values people thought were most important. We have therefore adopted the following five core values:

- Respect
- Kindness
- Honesty
- Positivity
- Teamwork

These values form the backbone of our updated behaviour policy and will be explored both in class and through assemblies next year. I hope you agree that our children will go out into the world as happy, balanced and caring citizens if they learn to live by these excellent values. Thank you again for your contributions.

Other key elements of the new policy are:

- Zones of Regulation – a positive and non-judgemental whole-school approach to helping children recognise and manage their own emotional states and their responses to these;
- Always Children – a way of recognising those children who quietly get on with doing their best at all times;
- Three Stages of Sorry – a way to help children understand what sorry means, and to have ownership of it.

I strongly encourage you to read the new policy, which is accessible via the school website.

There are a number of other new or updated policies available for you to see, including our Anti-Bullying Policy. Whilst we did not think you would welcome another survey at this point, we would be very pleased to receive any comments or questions you may have about the policy or any bullying issues in general. These should be sent to the Head of School, or via the school office. Thank you.

Well, my quick update appears to have become quite a long letter – thank you, if you are still reading!

It just remains for me to wish you a happy and relaxing Bank Holiday Weekend and half term when it comes, and I look forward to seeing you in June for what will sadly be my final half term with you before I leave the federation in Mrs Martin's very capable hands.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Stephanie Gibson

Executive Head Teacher,
Arun Villages Federation,
Amberley and St James Primary Schools