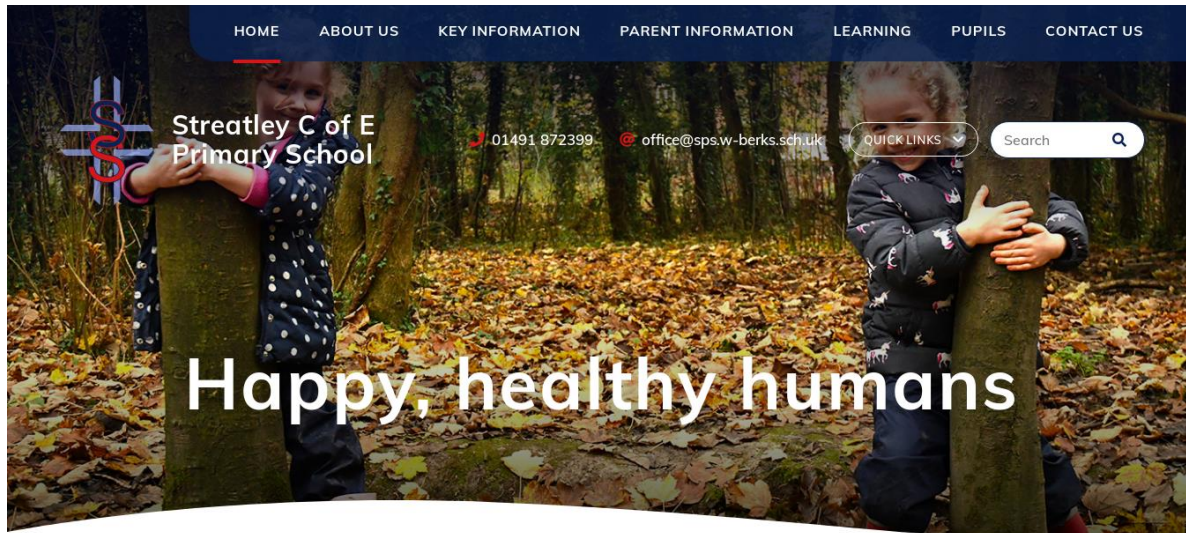




2nd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

First day of 2021-2022



We hope these messages find you and your family well. This summer has been about family for so many of us. Some of us have seen our families for the first time in 18 months (in person). It has really supported what our priorities should be; being well, being kind and being supportive of others in difficulty.

We are very excited about seeing the children tomorrow and we want them to enjoy the day – new beginnings are part of growing up and being able to manage our emotions.

Below are our expectations for the new school year regarding drop off, collection and communication.

Friday 3rd September

Drop off - Years 1-6.

We are expecting the children to enter the school building via the front steps (by the pond). You will see an adult in a yellow high viz jacket, this signals that children can go into the playground and find their friends. No adult there, no entry. A staff member will stand at this point from 8.45am until 8.55am, this is to allow parents a 10-minute window for drop off, supports traffic congestion outside of school.

Early Risers club starts again tomorrow from 7.45am. They are the only children who should enter via the school office.



Drop off – Foundation Stage and Year 1

As this is the **Foundation Stage children's first day**, their parents are the only parents who are invited into the school via their classroom, if you would like to say goodbye at the gate this is ok too as adults inside will show them to their peg and where to put their water bottle and book bag.

Year 1 children this year have been grouped differently, they are with Year R and so it is ok to drop your child off at the Reception and Year 1 gate at 8.55am (only when the gate has been opened). We do not want parents of Year 1 to enter the school as this is for the parents of new children only. Year 1 children used to meet down by the faded crossing for friends and go up the steps together. Due to Covid restrictions, this is also new for current Year 2 children too (using the playground).

Drop off – New children in other year groups

You may have made arrangements via the office, otherwise please use the above information to guide you and your child.

Pick up

Collection is a prompt 3.15pm for all pupils.

Yr1 and Foundation – best to wait up near the allotment or opposite their gate.

Yr2 exit near the bottom of the office steps with their teacher.

Yr3-6 exit near the steps by the pond.

Junior children who have permission to walk home **will have had confirmation by parent to the office email.** No child is released at the end of the day without this.

Collect your youngest child first.

Bring an umbrella, it usually rains at pick up!

Roads near the school

Traffic near the school can be high volumes, especially when there is rain. Please be aware that due to the removal of staggered starts and new children starting at preschool could be coming from afar, traffic may feel busier than usual, usual is now different.

Please do not block people's drives or drop off on zigzag lines or park opposite the school entrance or on any junctions. This is very dangerous and it put children's lives at risk. Please always tell friends and relatives who pick or drop off these expectations. Thank you.



Uniform has arrived

- This will be sent home with your child tomorrow
- Please do not influx the office for this tomorrow morning
- Should you like them to wear something sooner – leave an answerphone message and we will arrange if possible
- All children are expected to have black school shoes which conform with the school's uniform policy

Office, communication and the school's website

Website

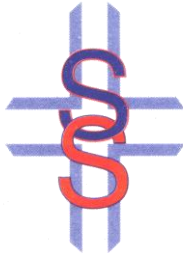
- The website will be up to date by the middle of next week. This is due to capacity and staffing. We have had to prioritise safeguarding training, health and safety training, Covid plans/ assessments and room alterations.
- This includes class pages. Our online calendar has been populated with known information, not pending information. Check in again next Wednesday as we get further updates.

Change in person picking your child up

- If someone is picking up your child regularly other than you, email the office with this information to save you ringing in regularly.
- If you cannot pick up please leave a message on the answerphone in the morning.
- If you cannot pick up and it is an urgent change, leave a message in the afternoon. We will not expect this to be a regular occurrence for a few as it is very disruptive for school in the afternoon.
- We do not expect or want you to come into the office to fill out slips – we want you to use the answerphone (Thank you; this is a change from Pre-Covid days).

Covid-19

- If your child has one of the three symptoms – loss of taste and smell, temperature or cough please inform us of their absence and tell us you have booked a drive thru PCR. Do not use an LFD (home testing) and then send them in (We will return them).
- We have chosen not to invite parents into school this half term; we want to see what happens here first and to do our best with cleaning, ventilation and hand washing to avoid additional measures having to come into place. We will reassess at half term. For new and old parents who have not experienced non Covid-19 here, we used to have coffee mornings, shared lunches and learning afternoons. They will return.
- We have no bubbles or staggered starts. We will ask contractors and delivery staff to wear a mask in our corridors, as they are very narrow.
- Cleaning regimes from last term remain in place.
- If you have a Covid-19 query, please email the office email with the attention of Miss Roberts. We do have the support of the local authority for any anxious parents and we can put you in touch with them for support.



Changes you want us to be aware of and our expectations

- parent@sps.w-berks.sch.uk is the email account to contact teachers about any changes over the summer break e.g. family changes or bereavements (family/pet). This email also covers booking appointments to speak to teachers. Do not try to arrange meeting on a gate duty.
- Meetings with the head teacher are to be arranged via the office email. I will ask the office to clarify the agenda and best outcomes from the meeting with you. I will then ring you to arrange a time to talk; it may be with another member of staff present. If a meeting is best held on site due to agencies, professional services being involved or difficult content to be discussed, then expect a note taker to be present. This is at my discretion.
- EnergyKidz – unfortunately they deferred their start here due to staff shortages, this happened yesterday despite their resources and electronics arriving. We are disappointed for the parents affected, due to their deferment we are not in a position to do anything as we have an agreement. We have given EnergyKidz our usual contacts to try and suggested parents' contact them for updates as this is an outsourced contract, as we do not have the capacity in house (some parents have been in touch as this has left them in the lurch).
- For family financial changes, please email myself via the office to arrange a discussion of how we can support you.

We hope your summer has been good, we hope you are all excited to be back and we hope very much that the term goes well for us all. Please remember we are a small school with many great features but we also have a small amount of staff/capacity compared to others, so sometimes things take us longer. We know you know, but it is good to remind everyone.

Best wishes,

Miss Roberts
Headteacher