

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back Claygate Primary School!  
Welcome to all of our new children and staff!

I hope that you enjoyed the summer holidays, despite the unpredictable weather at times. Hopefully, you've been able to relax and have fun with your loved ones. The children certainly seemed recharged and ready for a new school year. They were so grown up and they all looked eager to be back and to see friends and teachers again. I was so proud of all of our returnees but it was also lovely to welcome our reception children, ready and excited to join our caring community! They were incredible! It felt so lovely to be welcoming back our children; they are at the heart of all we do. We can't wait for our nursery children to start Acorns on Monday!

Apologies, the first two mornings were a little chaotic at drop off as the children weren't all sure where to go. Unfortunately at drop off day 1, a car began to come down the drive which I had to ask to remain stationary until all children were in - this blocked vision, increased congestion etc! On reflection, I could have had a staggered start for a couple of days to ensure the children knew their way, but I was conscious that many parents are back at work and need to catch trains etc - I will however take this forward to next year!

From Monday, children can be dropped between **8.45 and 9.00am**, we will then reduce this as children move more confidently and quickly. Reception children will continue to be collected by their staff and taken down between 8.45 – 8.50am. Children should now know whether they go through the green gates or if they turn right and go via the woodland learning zone pathway. Splitting the cohorts this way works well once the children are familiar with these routes. Children do not need to wait for their teacher but will head straight to class. Staff will be positioned to offer any help if they forget on both routes. Thank you for all of your support and positivity despite this blip!

We had some proud, independent Year 6 children coming in via the Rec gate. If you wish your child to come through the main gate at the beginning of the day, that is absolutely fine; they can simply make their way around as they did in Year 5. Year 6 also continue to exit via the Rec gate and teachers will keep any children with them until parents arrive, unless you have completed the form giving permission for them to leave independently, please speak to the school office for confirmation. Equally, if you have more than one child and would prefer them to meet you in the main playground via the Year 5 exit door (or at an arranged meeting point of your convenience), please also complete the form giving permission for them to leave the teacher to independently meet you.

The children were of course excited to see the pool works - we asked for this to remain visible for a couple of days so our more anxious children (and curious ones) could understand what was happening! They were all so enthusiastic...it certainly is an exciting project!

It was lovely to catch up with everyone's holiday news and to see the children in the lunch hall. Lunch worked smoothly and we have kept the successful systems introduced last year with 2 year groups dining simultaneously, one on each side of the hall with their year group staff team who know them best. The children also feel confident knowing there will be a seat free and with their friends. This year, Year 6 felt special, using plates rather than trays and all children selected their dessert from the dessert trolley with options of dessert, crackers and fruits; many said this was the best thing ever! Last year, the children preferred having playtime with their own play equipment, staff and year group. This too is a 'keeper' and will continue either as a year group, or in paired groups ie Year 1 and 2, Year 3 and 4 or Year 5 and 6.

Don't forget you are welcome to visit CPS today, our first Pop-In, or September 10 until 4.00pm, this gives plenty of time for those of you who have more than one child. There will be more Pop-Ins throughout the year. Teachers will release their class safely to their adults first but do pop-in once you have collected your child as this is child-led. Do drop into the hall to see the history timeline which was installed over the summer and the new corridor, name yet to be finalised, with our new Reading Zone. I hope you love the new library grass and 'woodland feel' - we plan to develop this alongside the PA this year to further develop this theme which the children voted for. You will also notice the carpets once worn and covered in sticky safety tape have been replaced and new paintwork, removal of unsafe shelving etc gives the school a smarter look.

NB Due to safeguarding, we cannot allow non-nursery parents to pop-into Acorns next Friday as there will be nursery children on site. Equally, please be mindful of Clubland children being collected and any clubs.

Reminder, our year group Curriculum Evenings are scheduled next week to share the year's expectations and curriculum and to ensure any queries are addressed! For ease, these will be via Google Classroom.

- Monday 13 September 4.00pm Year R
- Monday 13 September 4.30pm Year 1 and Year 6
- Wednesday 15 September 4.00pm Year 2
- Wednesday 15 September 4.30pm Year 5
- Thursday 16 September 4.00pm Year 3
- Thursday 16 September 4.30pm Year 4

PE begins next week.

For outdoor PE, children wear their normal tracksuits or joggers with a grey sweatshirt or a school maroon sweatshirt for the whole day (not zipped or hooded as this is unsafe - unzipped zips can cause a nasty injury and hoods can be tempting to grab during competitive sports!) For Indoor PE, children wear their indoor PE kit and may wear their tracksuit over this for the rest of the day or a school fleece so they don't get cold. They do not need plimsolls as they engage with indoor activities in bare feet and will have trainers for the rest of the day.

If a child does a sporty club, eg dance, cheerleading, football etc they will change into uniform after their club and before school with their Club leader if it is a morning club. If it is an afternoon club, they will bring in the appropriate clothing for that club and change with their Club Leader.

Please ensure your children have all they need; this year access to parents has been restricted and we wish to continue to minimise access to multiple people into the school 'foyer' - one 'keeper' has been that the office team have not spent much of their mornings dropping off various items around the whole school site. **If something has been forgotten which is urgently needed, please label the item with the child's name and class and pop it into the box outside the office.** Many thanks again for your support with this.

Again, thank you all for your continued and on-going support; it really does mean a lot!

We have been asked to share this with all Surrey parents:

**New web pages for parents and carers from Healthy Surrey**

The Healthy Surrey website now provides parents and carers with advice and information on how to manage minor illnesses and injuries in babies and children.



Fiona Whitaker, Senior Commissioner for Paediatric Services at Surrey Heartlands, said: "When babies and children are unwell it can be a really worrying time for parents and carers and it's important that they know when to seek help, as well as being able to treat minor illnesses and injuries safely at home.

“This new information on the Healthy Surrey website provides easy to follow details for the most common ailments and injuries. I would encourage parents, grandparents and carers across Surrey to take a look so they know what to do when the time comes and to bookmark these pages on their web browser for easy future use.”

The information has been developed by members of the Paediatric Team across Surrey Heartlands. It signposts to NHS information for common ailments such as high temperature, rashes, vomiting, and breathing problems along with clear information on when to seek further help.

Additionally, information on how to treat injuries in babies and children such as sprains, burns, and head injuries, has been added to Healthy Surrey. This signposts visitors to the excellent Red Cross First Aid website.

Visit the pages: [Healthy Surrey-children-and-families](#)