

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe it is nearly the middle of September already; the children are well in to a new school year having completed their first full week. Special congratulations must go to all our new children, especially those who have joined us in Reception and Year 3. They have very quickly become part of the South Farnham Primary School family and we are extremely proud of how well they have transitioned to their new classes. Thank you to parents and carers for helping to make this transition so smooth for the children. Next week the children will build on their new found independence at both sites. We ask parents at the Junior site to say goodbye to their child at the gate; for safeguarding reasons we cannot have parents in the playground. It was lovely to meet so many of you at the Year 3 coffee morning today and to hear so many positive stories of how well the children have settled and how much they are enjoying school.

At the Infant site, in Years 1 and 2, to both encourage independence and limit congestion in the building, we would like to encourage parents or carers to say goodbye to the children in the school grounds outside the main reception doors or to use our popular 'drop-off' system. We look forward to seeing you at the coffee mornings next week.

Our breakfast club and after school care are proving hugely popular at both the Infant and Junior sites. The children are given a broad range of activities including board games and arts / crafts as well as the opportunity to play outside if the weather permits. The children are looked after by Teaching Assistants who are committed to generating an atmosphere of care and respect within a safe and secure environment. Booking and payment for this facility is done through Parent Pay.

We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure all our children can achieve their highest potential in every aspect of their school life. Your child receives the best education when you and our outstanding teachers work as a team. Your enthusiasm, support and participation will inspire your children to do their best. Parent Consultation Evenings take place on 23rd and 24th October; however, if you have any concerns, no matter how small, please speak to your child's teacher or pop in to see me, or Miss Allan, at any time.

It is already shaping up to be a busy Autumn Term. Information about Clubs and Tuition has been sent out this week and we have a wide range of activities, visits and workshops for the children to participate in. Autumn brings with it Harvest Festival, National Poetry Day, World Space Week, Cross Country, Diwali, Remembrance and, of course, Christmas Fairs, Plays, Parties and the Nativity (only 102 sleeps to go). We

look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these events. There are visitors or trips for every year group from Year R to Year 6 including, drama workshops at the Infants and a visit to Aldershot Military Museum for Year 2. At the Juniors we look forward to welcoming a Rabbi and the Planetarium to Year 5, the RNLI to Year 6 as well as a visit to The Mary Rose for Year 5, Fishbourne Roman Palace for Year 4 and Butser Farm for Year 3.

We aim to keep you informed of all the things happening at school and to celebrate the varied and exciting achievements of the children. Please keep an eye on the Upcoming Events and Latest News displayed on the home page of the website and see the News and Activities section for further detail and key dates.

Please follow us on Twitter @SouthFarnham

The School Council has worked hard to encourage healthy eating habits and we appreciate your cooperation in providing healthy snacks for your children at break/lunch times. We have several children with severe nut allergies on both sites. Please could you ensure that products containing nuts are avoided for school packed lunches and snacks. Although we strive to be 'nut-free' in school, it is impossible to provide an absolute guarantee that no nuts will be brought onto the premises, so extra care in this respect would be greatly appreciated. Could you also remind your child that they should not share packed lunches or snacks with other children.

Children's imagination means that jumpers are most often used as goalposts or superhero capes. Each classroom has a jumper box where all clearly labelled items are put. Please ensure everything your child brings into school is named – if it is named we will return it to your child. This can take a little time as you will be amazed how many items are dispersed around the school grounds each day. Similarly, please check that everything your child brings home is theirs as they do have a habit of scooping uniform off the floor around them when changing or at the end of the day. If you want to stock up on spares, our PFA/PTA run second hand uniform sales at Parent Consultation Evenings, where good quality items are sold for a fraction of the price of new items. We ask that the children do not bring things that are precious to them into school and talk to them about the '*top pocket rule*'; if it doesn't fit into their top pocket they should probably keep it safely at home.

Many children have had their ears pierced over the summer – please may I remind you that the school's policy is that the wearing of jewellery, including metal or plastic earrings, is not permitted on safety grounds. Plasters over earrings are not an acceptable alternative to removing them and teachers may not remove earrings or take responsibility for them.

Finally, we would love to hear from you if you are able to spare any time to support the school in any capacity; for example, listening to children read, helping on trips, assisting with art or cookery, doing a spot of gardening, painting the outdoor benches,

helping with sports coaching or talking to the children in a 'Bright Futures' session. The list is endless! In addition to this, the PTA/PFA have a number of social events planned already, such as, Party in the Playground, Quiz nights and a Pantomime (oh yes they do!). We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these events – all the money raised goes directly back into resources for the children and we have some exciting projects planned this year.

If you are unable to spare any of your time, you could consider making a one off or regular donation to South Farnham School Trust. This can either be done through ParentPay or by completing a standing order form available from the Office.

As a parent myself, I know how fast time goes by, especially as my daughter has just entered Year 11! We all have incredibly busy lives but I encourage you to fully embrace the moment and take the time to support our wonderful school and our dedicated staff as they strive to ensure every child is happy, cared for and flourishing in every area of school life.

Yours sincerely