

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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Friday 10th September 2021

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 Academic Year. How genuinely exciting to be back. This week we celebrated our first assembly since March 2020 and there was a genuine buzz. We are excited to welcome Year 7 students on Monday 13th September when they will be allocated a House to belong to for their full five years at Sunnydown. We use a Harry Potter sorting hat, so assembly on Monday will be full and exciting for all.

The warm start to the academic year allowed the boys to have a sensational treat on Wednesday - an ice cream dessert from an ice cream van. Staff indulged in this treat as well. Little touches like this remind the whole school how special a place it is.

The return to school and the relaxing of most of the Covid restrictions has taken some students a little while to get used to. The one way system through Forest View will remain in place until at least October half term.

Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)

Communications regarding LFT and the need for all students to test twice before returning to school were sent on 27th August 2021. The outcomes of these tests were to be recorded using the Google link. Thank you to all families as this system has worked incredibly well.

As stated in communications on 27th August, ***‘additional LFT kits will be supplied for home testing, which should continue through September but there is no need to record this. Students who are displaying symptoms are expected to remain off school and arrange a PCR test, in accordance with current guidance.’***

In this regard, additional kits will be with Year 8 to 11 students today, and Year 7 students Friday 17th September. As recommended by the DfE, testing at home is voluntary but encouraged. There is no requirement for the results of these ongoing LFT tests to be recorded with school. However, if your son tests positive, you must follow current government guidance and keep your son at home and arrange a PCR test. As with any absence, please inform the school office as soon as possible.

Bank Holiday - 22nd October

We have been advised that Friday 22nd October 2021 is a Bank Holiday. This is the date in lieu of the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday. This is the day immediately before the October half-term break and has been arranged as the day to replace this additional Bank Holiday, which falls in the summer half-term break. We will still finish at 3.30pm as a usual Thursday.

Uniform

Clarification was recently sent home regarding school uniform. We pride ourselves on being a uniformed school and I expect all families and young men to support this. An ongoing area of uniform regularly brought to my attention is students wearing black trainers which they then expect to be allowed to wear on the Astro.

For absolute clarity, if your son arrives in black trainers, it is most likely that staff on duty will ask about this every day as this is not part of the current uniform policy. In addition, staff will not condone students wearing these black trainers onto the Astro. This has always been the case, and with a new Astro being laid over October half term, it is imperative that the investment is protected.

Any deviation from the expected school uniform currently needs written approval. If your son needs to deviate from the expectations, please provide as much detail to your form tutor who will discuss it with myself. Agreed changes to uniform for individual students are usually reserved for medical and sensory issues.

I am however going to discuss uniform with governors at the FGB on Thursday 16th September to consider a wider consultation on possible changes to the policy.

Weekend Working Bee - Chickens, goats (and ... Wallabies ????) Oh please)

A team of eager and able workers for Saturday 25th September would be magnificent. We are preparing an area of the school for the potential to house some chickens and goats. If all goes well, wallabies may form part of our menagerie as well. By way of reminder, we work from 10.30am to 12.30pm, followed by a hearty lunch to say thank you. Some people have stayed on after lunch in the past, but there is no expectation. There will be a great deal of bramble cutting, nettle pulling, and moving firewood. Please register your interest in attending by emailing: office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk.

Current Covid guidelines do not limit the number of people we can have, however, for catering and safety we will cap at 10 families. Please note, circumstances (and weather) can change between now and the event, so we may need to adapt or even cancel.

Caterham Beer Festival - The Burger Van

This weekend sees our Burger van being used in public at the Roundtable Caterham Beer Festival. This is a great opportunity for our school to be promoted positively in the community and also raise some funds to go towards school projects. Many thanks in advance to the staff who have offered to help. If you are attending, or know someone that is, please encourage them to stop by and say hello (and buy a burger).

Have a lovely weekend.

Paul Jensen

Dutch reach

The number of cyclists on the road has increased and we're keen on promoting the virtues of cycling here in Sunnydown. Collectively we all need to do what we can to make the roads safer for ourselves and all other road users. Last week I almost cycled into a car door as a driver exited their car without looking on a busy, narrow street. 'Dooring' can cause up to 700 injuries a year, both to the cyclist and the driver as well as causing damage to both vehicles. One method to reduce such accidents is the Dutch reach:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeM984dk220>

This method has drivers and passengers opening doors with the hand furthest from the door, causing them to turn and look behind them. As a passenger or driver, please make sure you're using the Dutch reach or just checking before you open the door, make sure the other people in the car are too and spread the word to make the roads safer for everyone. The Dutch reach was meant to be added to the Highway Code this year but whether it is or isn't, the majority of road users aren't doing it and aren't aware of it leading to very avoidable accidents.

Acceptable Use Policy

We at Sunnydown take safeguarding our young men very seriously and as part of our safety procedures we need parents to sign the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) that was sent out last week. Thank you to the 51% of parents that have already responded.

Friends of Sunnydown

Welcome back, from Friends of Sunnydown, we hope you enjoyed a restful summer.

The Friends of Sunnydown are committed to helping the school by organising activities to raise funds which all directly benefit the boys. We are always open to ideas and welcome help from new members! If you are interested in joining us, please email Friends@Sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

An early evening meeting is held monthly, usually on a Wednesday. The next one is on Wednesday 22nd September and everyone is welcome. We will share the link in next week's newsletter.

Friends of Sunnydown

Chef of the Week

The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull is:

Oscar Stewart

Scientist of the Week

The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mr Cybuch for independence is:

Byron Boniface

Thought for this week
(W/C: 6th September)

Welcome back/Settling in

11W's thoughts on Welcome back and Settling in:

Nice to see everyone and be able to mix with our friends in other year groups.

As seniors we feel excited about our last year but know we have to focus on our exams.

We are enjoying settling into the common room with the pool table

It will be good to meet Year 7s on Monday.

Miss Wood

Thought for next week
(W/C: 13th September)

How can I make a difference and put my mark on Sunnydown?

Our thought for the week is 'how can we make a difference?'. We will be looking at some historical figures that have made a big impact in the past and also look at how little acts can have a big positive impact in the future.

“Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.” - Robert Kennedy

Mr Cybuch

KS3 Friday Curriculum - 17th September 2021

Class	Activity	On/Off site	Information
7N	School Project	On site	School Uniform with outdoor footwear such as trainers
7O	Food Experience	On site	School Uniform
8D	Humanities	On site	School Uniform
8T	Humanities	On site	School Uniform
9C	Rice Challenge	On site	School Uniform. Please bring trainers as well
9M	Rice Challenge	On site	School Uniform. Please bring trainers as well.

House Points

Congratulations to the following young men who achieved their House Point certificates this week:

James Hall	200 House Points
Joshua Benton	400 House Points
James Dean	500 House Points

Summer 2021 Reading Achievers



100% (5 House Points)

Leon P
Daniel L
Joe H
Nathan W
Liam T
Josh B
Joshua T
Alexander N



90% + (3 House Points)

Jacob C
Miles E
Mason-Ray H
Connor M
Reece Wo
George S
Edward Bridges-P
Tomas B
James D
Lucas A
Oscar S
Ty S
Nathan S



80% + (1 House Point)

Reece W
Elvinas S
George W
Ollie Mc
Max M



Well done and congratulations to everyone who achieved an excellent reading percentage over the summer term last year. All house points will be added to your totals so far.

Link to Sunnydown Form Page for all other updates:

<https://sites.google.com/sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk/sunnydown-learning-hub/home>