



Friday 18th September 2020

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Hooray. With Year 7 arriving excitedly on Monday, we are now complete again. On taxi duty in the morning and afternoon, Mr Lord and I make a point of asking our new recruits about their day or any feedback. Their energy and positivity and excitement is clearly evident.

Many of the Year 7 students finished the week with a hot chocolate made in the BBQ Hut area. I believe that each young man has been made to feel very welcome at Sunnydown since starting.

Attendance at school is of paramount importance for the development of your son, socially, pastorally and academically.

However, it is inevitable that there will be disruptions to our provision; students will need to isolate because their brothers or sisters have symptoms; staff will need to isolate because they might be unwell or their own children exhibit symptoms. The impact of the complications around accessing testing has its own inherent difficulties. In line with confidentiality, it is intended that no student nor staff will be directly identified by the school in communications regarding Covid-19. Your support in avoiding speculation is appreciated.

In making decisions about whether to self isolate or not, and whether to send a child to school or not, please be reminded of the table sent last Friday. This is a guide only, and should be considered in line with and by referring to the latest DFE guidance, but it does help clarify the process for you.

Our 'blended offer' of being able to deliver and access classes whether a student or staff member is physically onsite or not is exceptional. We continue to follow our long and short term curriculum plans (as we did through the Summer term) which allow the national curriculum to be delivered. Individual lessons are adapted and differentiated to meet the needs of the students, again whether at school or at home.

On Thursday I had the opportunity to speak about our online education offer, developed and delivered as part of our response to Covid-19. This presentation formed part of the Surrey Contingency Planning Webinar, co-ordinated by Schools Alliance for Excellence (SAFE). Feedback from the educators across Surrey who tuned in to the webinar has been very positive. I took time to recognise the resilience and application of the students, but also the efforts of the staff to ensure it was as successful as it was.

The FGB met on Thursday afternoon as we do every half term. We reminded ourselves that throughout the Summer term and even over the summer break, we met informally on a weekly basis to discuss matters relating to the school, with a focus on our Covid-19 contingency and more recently our recovery. This level of communication with governors gave them the reassurance that we were doing all we could, but also afforded the opportunity for appropriate challenge from them to explore whether we could do anything differently, or even improve.

A huge “thank you” is extended to the FoS who have purchased for the boys 10 recycled plastic seating benches and the giant chess and draughts pieces for our outdoor chess playing area. The development of this area is by the boys, for the boys. The joint fundraising from different community groups such as FoS, Caterham Round Table, Children with Special Needs Foundation (CWSNF) have galvanised our approach to collaboration and cooperation to achieve a positive outcome.



In the background of the photo above you can see the outdoor BBQ hut to the right (where Year 7 had hot chocolate today), some new landscaping, and a new outdoor shelter to the left. This is the result of the Sunnydown community working together.

There remains work to be done. For example, a concrete base needs to be laid under the new shelter before an outdoor brick pizza oven and BBQ can be made. Anyone with skills in this area that would be willing to help finalise this is encouraged to contact the school. It would be a wonderful achievement if the boys could be preparing their own Autumn pizzas prior to October half term.

In that light, the FoS are again supporting a Weekend Working Bee. This time, a socially distanced, family bubbled opportunity to develop areas of our grounds for the direct benefit of your sons. Historically we have come together on a Sunday. This time we are meeting on Saturday 10th October for 2 hours only, 10.30am-12.30pm. A hearty lunch will be provided. Families will be allocated specific areas and tasks to work on, depending on their interests, abilities, skills and desires. Only families that have registered by emailing office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk are able to attend. This allows for a well managed safe event to take place. Investing in this type of collaborative project serves our school and your son directly. I look forward to working with you on this occasion.

Thursday 5th November is Bonfire or Guy Fawkes night. Local Bonfire night events are unlikely to go ahead, so we are planning to try something unique. Our ‘Non-fire night’ will take place around this time. Watch this space for further information and ways to support the event.



The Fire and Partial/Full Lockdown procedures were rehearsed last Friday. Year 7 will have an opportunity to have these procedures explained after a few weeks of settling in, and prior to October half term.

Finally, I implore all adults to expect from their sons appropriate online interactions and for us as adults to demonstrate this at every opportunity.

Chromebooks - Payment scheme

As part of our immediate response to national lockdown, all students received a Chromebook in April. New Year 7 students received theirs when joining Sunnydown.

We consider the Chromebooks to be invaluable resources that help us to stay connected and provide interactive teaching whether students and staff are on and off site. This remains vitally important now and into the future, as our 'blended education offer' is implemented to accommodate the inevitable disruption from Covid-19.

The introduction of Chromebooks was part of our School Development Plan ahead of Covid-19 and communications have been shared with families for sometime regarding the purchase of student devices. On several occasions parents were also surveyed asking if they would be willing to make contributions towards the payment of these devices, well in advance of Covid-19. On each occasion, parent response was very positive with a vast majority recognising the value of the chromebooks and indicating they would pay for them in full.

We are now following through on the request for family support with the purchase of the Chromebooks. On Monday 21st September from 9:30am families will see a Chromebook Payment tab appear within the Parentmail App. Payments can be made in two ways; either a one off payment for the full value or a series of installments during the current academic year. After each payment, this amount will be deducted and a new balance will appear on the App.

The total payable is £285 which includes the licence fee. When a student's education here at Sunnydown is finished they can take their Chromebook onto the next stage in their journey.

Those families who receive additional support such as free school meals (FSM), there is no requirement for any payment as the funds received by the school will be used to cover the purchase. However, some families in this category have requested the option to make payments. If you do, please follow the instructions on the Parent App.

Should you have any concerns regarding payment for this item, please contact the school office who will be happy to put you in touch with the right person.

I would like to also take this moment to remind families that the Chrombooks are robust, but should be treated and looked after with care. We ask that these come to school each day along with the charger supplied. A protective case is not supplied however we do encourage families to purchase one of their choice for the daily traveling of the device both on and off site.



Each device comes with a warranty, however, damage such as missing keys and broken screens are not covered by this. Any cost for repairs must be covered by the family, and carried out by our IT support team Eduthing. Should you need to report any damage or faults you can contact the school office who will arrange repair and a loan device. All devices are covered under our Surrey insurance for the time that students are on roll at Sunnydown. Following graduation the responsibility for insurance becomes the owners. Surrey excess on insurance claims is currently £250, therefore given the price of an individual device, it is unlikely a claim can be made using this route.

Mrs Rogers (SBM)

Pupil Premium Funding

Attached to this newsletter is a form to check for eligibility for Free School Meals. Even if you do not think you qualify, I would encourage every family to complete this form. If you do qualify, the school is entitled to extra funding for your son. If you have any questions or would like a paper copy of the form, please contact me in the school office. Thank you.

Miss Lawson

KS3 Friday Curriculum - 25th September, 2020

Class	Activity	On/Off site	Clothing and other information
7D	Performing Arts	On site	School Uniform
7T	Performing Arts	On site	School Uniform
8C	Cycling at Kenley	off site	Arrive in school uniform with a change of clothes
8M	Cycling at Kenley	off site	Arrive in school uniform with a change of clothes
9J	School Project	On site	School uniform
9P	Food Experience	On site	School uniform

Year 8 - Friday 25th September

Next Friday, as part of the Outward Bounds element of our Friday curriculum, the Year 8s will be given the opportunity to enjoy some mountain biking at the historic Kenley airfield. Kenley airfield has a 3km track for the young men to develop their skills and confidence on their bikes in a safe space. The morning will be split into two sessions:

9.15am-10.45am: 8C - Mountain biking at Kenley

11.05am-12.30pm: 8C - Wide games at Sunnydown

9.15am-10.45am: 8M - Wide games at Sunnydown

11.05am-12.30pm: 8M - Mountain biking at Kenley



We ask that pupils come into school dressed in their school uniform, with a suitable change of clothes for the activity. In addition they will also need a water bottle (named) and a raincoat.

Mr Wright

Friends of Sunnydown

Welcome, welcome, welcome all our new Year 7 parents to our amazing school. This may be the first time you have heard of the Friends of Sunnydown, so who are we? We are not only fundraisers but we are also a community. It's not all about money, it is about helping to bring us all together through quiz nights, race nights and other fun events for you all.

This year is obviously different as we live in our bubbles, so last night we had our first meeting of the new year through Zoom. We looked for ways to make this year as 'normal' as possible for the young men. At the meeting we agreed to fund the new benches and the giant chess set. Total funding for the young men to enjoy of around £4,000, raised by the efforts of you.

We also drew the winners of the August and September 50/50 draws which made 4 parents a little richer. Please join, if you haven't already - it is £5 per month direct from your bank. Email: friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

Great news - the Smartie Challenge is on again this year. The tubes will be heading home at half term for the boys to scoff the sweets and for parents to put coins in and return to school. One returned tube will be drawn to win a prize.

Amazon. Most of us have our own delivery driver through lock down who has probably become a personal friend, as such why not make money for the school as well by shopping through Amazon using Amazon Smile. The cost to parents is zero, but the Friends receive money. Also please shop through Easyfundraising. Again zero costs to parents but pounds for our boys.

Also, please try to support the schedule Socially Distanced Family 'bubbled' weekend working bee. Saturday 10th October, 10.30am - 12.30pm followed by a hearty lunch.

The AGM will be held on Zoom on 22nd October 2020. The Treasurer and Secretary's young man has just left the school, so if anybody is in a position to offer their services that would be great. You won't be thrown in at the deep end, honest.

Lesley Anderson
friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

Word of the Week

Sanguine (adjective) – please see end of newsletter (w/c 21st September 2020).

Mrs Palmer

Thought for THIS week was:



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

Each week, one class will be summarising their understanding from the Thought for the Week. This week is from 11D.



Mrs Cybuch

Thought for NEXT week:

Emotions - what are they? Are they important?

College Open Events 2020



Reigate College virtual open event

1st, 5th and 6th October 2020: 18.00-20.00

<https://www.reigate.ac.uk/admissions/open-events/>



NESCOT virtual open event

21-24 September 2020: 3pm-7pm

<https://nescot.us16.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=98790b265de270a293daa2191&id=07759d8945>



East Surrey virtual open event

Wednesday 23rd September 2020: 17:30-2000

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSds7Dzk1Vep_DNe8nQgk4SEvdm5kf490NNELqIpmYwhYLMl9w/viewform



House Points

House Points are being awarded and collected all around the school. The weekly House Point winners will be announced from next week.

Our new Year 7s have now been allocated their houses.

House Captains for this year were voted on this week and the results will be shared next week.

Mr Wright

Word of the week w/c 21st September 2020

sanguine adjective

- optimistic or positive, especially in a bad or difficult situation

Despite the fact the boy had not seen his family for months, he was still

sanguine about being reunited with them soon.



Upcoming Events

Autumn 2020



Dyslexia Awareness Talk

Date: Thursday 1st October, 2020

Time: 6.30 - 8.30

Where: Online, via Zoom

Claire Harvey from The Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre will speak about common areas of difficulty experienced by dyslexic learners, positive traits associated with dyslexia, how to build self-esteem, advantages of multi-sensory teaching, and tips to support reading, reading comprehension, spelling and writing. There will also be time for discussion and questions.

This **FREE EVENT** is for parent carers who are members of FVS (membership is free: <https://www.familyvoicesurrey.org/become-a-member>).

To take part in this event, please sign up via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dyslexia-awareness-talk-for-parent-carers-tickets-100545109129>

The Expert Parent Programme

Date: 3 & 17 Oct 2020 - 10am – midday

Where: Online, via Zoom

Training programme for parent carers to build confidence when engaging with health professionals. This course will be led by facilitators Gail Bedding and Grainne Saunders, who are both trained by the Council for Disabled Children. The programme consists of two two-hour Zoom workshops, an e-learning package and online resources. There are 10 places on this programme.

The course is **FREE** for FVS members (you can join [here](#) for free).

Please register for both dates when booking a place on this course.

To take part in this event, please sign up via Eventbrite: <https://fvs-epp.eventbrite.co.uk>

Self-harm in children with SEND - advice for parents

Date: Wed 4 Nov 2020 - 18.00 - 19.30

Where: Online, Via Zoom

Our expert speaker for this online event is Dr Mark Brown of Special Help 4 Special Needs. Mark will cover the issue of self-harm in children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, as well as the support which is available. There will also be time for discussion and questions.

The session will be delivered via Zoom - joining details will be emailed to registered attendees prior to the event.

This free event is for parent carers who are members of FVS (membership is free: <https://www.familyvoicesurrey.org/become-a-member>).

Sign up for this course via Eventbrite: <https://fvsselfharm.eventbrite.co.uk>

Family Voice Surrey
Connect House, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7LT
Together we can make a difference www.familyvoicesurrey.org

