



Sheepscombe Primary School
Far End
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Interim Head Teacher: Mr Rob Gardner BSc (Hons) PGCE, NPQH

Friday 28th August

Dear parents,

The staff team and I hope that you have had a wonderful summer holiday. We are really looking forward to seeing you all again and to the term ahead. We know that children can be apprehensive about coming back to school but please reassure your children that we are looking forward to seeing them all again and also welcoming our new children and families to school. This letter contains information about the term and school day generally. As well as this, at the start of the term, you will also receive a housekeeping letter outlining the class schedules and how reading books will be changed etc, as well as the term's planning overview.

Mrs Henvest, as you know, takes up the role of School Business Manager. She will be in the office from 8.30 on all days except Wednesday when she starts at 9.30. You can also contact her, as previously, via the admin@sheepscombe.gloucs.sch.uk address or by telephone.

Summer Work Parties

The staff team and I would like to extend a huge thank you to the many parent volunteers who have been in school over the holiday helping to prepare for the coming term. The new Eagles class (Y5/6) will benefit hugely from their newly decorated classroom and purpose-built bookcases and seat. The classroom looks amazing thanks. It is also wonderful to see the playground and paths clear of weeds and ready for the children to play in. Thank you to all who helped.

Road closure and Village Hall Car Park Closure

With spectacular timing, a road closure has been announced between 07.30 and 17.00 on Thursday 3rd September. Vehicles will not be able to drive through the middle of the village. Far End will be accessible from the direction of the Butchers Arms. The small road below school next to Briar cottage will be closed. Please plan your journeys accordingly to account for this on the first day.



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Due to an event at the village hall there will be no parking at the village hall for staff or parents from the evening of Wednesday 2nd September until Tuesday morning 8th September. I am afraid I don't yet know what time 'morning' is on the Tuesday. Please use other areas of the road as considerably as possible to park in on those days – I know it will be tricky. Where possible sharing lifts or walking would help on these days.

Term start date

Term begins for all children this **Thursday 3rd September**. Staff have two inset days on the Tuesday and Wednesday, so if you do need to speak to someone before school starts do get in touch.

School day timings

Please note that school starts promptly at 8.45 a.m for children in Reception upwards. Children may be dropped at school any time from 8.30 straight into classrooms where class staff will welcome them. The morning register is taken at 8.45 a.m and lessons begin shortly after this. If you arrive after 8.45 please take your child to the office to register and Mrs Henvest or another member of staff will take your child to class. This is to minimise disruption to the start of the day for the other children, as lessons may already have begun. If you want to do the handover to teaching staff directly it is better for everyone that you arrive at or before 8.45 a.m. Our preference is for drop off to be directly to classes rather than to the school office; this will also avoid your child being marked as arriving late on the registers.

Pick up time for all children remains 3.15 p.m, unless your child is staying for one of our after school clubs, which run to 4.15 p.m each day. Breakfast club runs as usual 5 days a week from 8.00 a.m for those needing an earlier drop off (more details below).

Breakfast club

Breakfast club is available in the conservatory from 8.00 a.m every day of the week, starting on the first day of term. This year it will be run by Miss Barnes. If you would like to book a place at breakfast club for one or more days then please contact Mrs Henvest in the office in person, via the admin@sheepscombe.gloucs.sch.uk address or by telephone. The cost for Breakfast club is £2.50 per day. Mrs Henvest will invoice you through Parent Pay. Children can attend breakfast club on a regular or an occasional basis, and if you need a place in a hurry and don't have time to contact us then by all means bring them in.

After school clubs

After school clubs will begin on the first day of term and run every day until 4.15 p.m. This week (the first two days) the clubs will be stay and play, with our themed clubs beginning next week.



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After school clubs are free of charge, other than sewing club with Ali Heath. The list of clubs for this first term is as follows:

Day	Clubs	Staff Member	Information
Monday	Craft club	Miss Dicker	Open to all
	11+ club	Mr Gardner	For years 4/5 supporting SPAG and maths skills
Tuesday	Sports club	Miss Phelps/Atlas staff	Open to all
	Lego/construction club	Mrs Curzon	Open to all
Wednesday	Wellbeing club	Mrs White	Open to all – a variety of yoga, mindfulness exercises, colouring, craft and other activities
Thursday	Colouring and Karaoke	Miss Barnes	Open to all
	Sewing club	Ali Heath	Very limited places (only KS2) – there is a cost to pay for the term
Friday	Games and Creativity	Miss Phelps	Open to all board games with some craft activities
	Mad Hatter's Book club	Mr Ringer	For years 5/6

Please let the office know if you would like your child to regularly attend one of our clubs. If you are interested in the sewing club please speak to Mr Gardner. There is already a list of interested children so it may not be possible this term, but as space becomes available the opportunity will be given when it can.

Meeting with teachers/school staff

Teachers/staff will be available at the end of the school day should you need a quick chat about anything. Sometimes they can pop out in the morning too if you need to pass anything on first thing before 8.45 a.m, or to help settle your child at the point of transition but please keep this time to necessary information to support the transition of your child that day. Alternatively, speak with Mrs Henvest and she will pass any messages on for you.

Please support your child to be independent in coming into the building on their own and organising their things, particularly in Key Stage 2. If your child is anxious for any reason about coming into the building, just let someone know and we will come to you to help. If your child is anxious at drop off we are happy to receive or make calls to you later to give feedback how they are doing.



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Forest School

Forest School will continue fortnightly for Kestrel and Eagle classes on Thursdays, starting on Thursday 11th September. We will send a full calendar of events at the start of term outlining these dates. Children in Kestrel and Eagle class will need a packed lunch from home on this day.

Children do not need to wear school uniform on their Forest School day – they can wear suitable outdoor clothes and bring a change of shoes or boots suitable for woodland walking. Please make sure that your child wears long trousers and not shorts to Forest School for their own protection.

Children in Merlin class will be taking part in forest school and outdoor learning activities each Thursday. There will be more information about this in their housekeeping letter. On these days they will eat at school as usual.

School Uniform

Please send your child to school in the required uniform other than on PE or Forest School days. This comprises school trousers or school shorts (black, grey or navy), white or navy polo shirts, blue check school summer dresses or blue check school summer shorts sets. A Sheepscombe School sweatshirt or a navy or grey cardigan for when the weather is cooler. Cycling type shorts or leggings in similar colours can be worn under dresses if required. Please refrain from sending your child in other alternative colours. Children may wear trainers or school shoes to school on a daily basis as we know many of you walk some distance to school each day.

Every Tuesday children can wear their PE kit to school all day. This should be black, grey or navy shorts, joggers or leggings, a white or navy t shirt and their school jumper or a plain black, navy, blue, or grey hoodie is also acceptable. On Fridays, children will just need their trainers and can wear school uniform. Each class will have a short PE session on a Friday afternoon at school led by school staff. Tuesday PE is led by Atlas Sports and Class staff together.

Theme plans

Our whole school theme for the Autumn Term is 'Let's Get Moving'. Staff have been busy planning already and will let you know at the start of term how they will cover curriculum with this theme title in each class and how this links to the National Curriculum or Early Years Framework. We have a trip planned to STEAM – the museum of the Great Western Railway on Wednesday 23rd September. More details to follow.

School lunches

Our school kitchen is open as usual from the first day of term, the menu continues from last term. If you want to check or alter your menu choices for your child please see Mrs Henvest.



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Water bottles

Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle into school each day. Staff are happy to refill it during the day. We have very limited spare bottles in school so please check your child has their water bottle when you leave home each day. Many thanks.

Parents' evenings

We will hold our parents' evenings on Thursday 24th September and Thursday 8th October so you can meet with teachers and see how your child has settled in to their new year group. Governors and I will also be available to talk with parents informally on these days and to answer any questions you have.

Celebration assemblies

Celebration assemblies will continue every Friday but at the new time of 2.30, starting on the second week of term in Kestrel classroom (the large one). Parents/Grandparents/families are welcome to attend this assembly. At our first celebration assembly (Friday 11th September) the Reception children will receive their special 'Welcome to School' Sheepscombe teddy bear.

Reception children phased entry

For new Reception children please see your information pack (given out last term) about phased transition arrangements. As a reminder, children can start full time or part time during this transition period – more details are in your booklet, or speak to class teachers. If you are picking up early please come to the school office and we will come with you to the classroom to fetch your child or we can ring up to the classroom to tell staff you are here.

Eagle's class

Monday will be my usual teaching day in Eagles class this year. However, the LA has put in a provision package for new Head Teachers in Term 1 which I will be taking up. Mrs Parker, who has taught in the school previously, will be teaching on Mondays for Term 1 only. I will still be in school, while making use of their provision.

There will be lots more information to share in the coming weeks, but hopefully this letter will answer some of the questions you may have ahead of the start of term.

We look forward to seeing you and your children very soon. We are always here to help, so please do ask if you have any questions at all.

Kind regards,
Rob Gardner and the Staff team



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