

A decorative header featuring several cartoon bees with yellow and black stripes and smiling faces, flying across the top. Below them, the school's name is written in a large, blue, bubbly font.

South Norwood Primary School

NEWSLETTER: 9th September 2009

WELCOME BACK

I trust you all had a good break and an enjoyable summer. The start of a new year is always very exciting: new teachers; new children; new year group; new routines; new uniform...

...as well as the above, we have the following:

- Our STAR Room has been relocated next to the Year 6 classes in the Junior Building. In its place is our new **Music Room**. All classes are timetabled to use this Room for their music sessions and we are planning to bring in individual music lessons (more information soon).
- A new class of Reception children starting mid-September. This will take us to three classes in Reception and we are looking forward to the new classroom being ready for use.
- Once the new classroom is in place, we will have a spare room for a **Science Room**; a dedicated room where children can take part in practical science activities.
- The Lobster Library will be relocated into the Infant Building, once the new Reception classroom has been set up.
- A new outdoor learning area will be set up in the far corner of the Junior playground, relocated from the Infant Quiet Area. This will include a range of equipment to enhance music and science skills.



CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Just to let you know that class assemblies will this year be on a Friday. There will still be two performances: 9.30am and 2.45pm. The schedule for these will be sent to you very soon, as will all dates for the autumn term.

PE KIT

We have been noticing that for some time, children have not been wearing the correct PE kit: plain white, grey or navy T-Shirt & shorts. Can you please ensure that by this autumn half-term, the correct kit is in your child's PE bag. This allows seven weeks for replacement. Thank you.

SWINE FLU

On the reverse of this Newsletter, you will find a letter about Swine Flu, which follows the Local Authority's guidance. Please read it through carefully and contact the school office should you have any further questions.

Please take time to read the posters that we have put up around the school: they are for your information and should answer most questions you have.



9th September 2009



Dear Parent

I would like to update you on the discussions that have taken place over the last few weeks between Croydon Council, the Health Protection Agency and NHS about the possible increase in Swine Flu cases that may occur in schools during the forthcoming Autumn term

The current position is that Swine Flu continues to circulate in the community and it is possible that it will spread to more people later this year.

South Norwood Primary School aims to remain open during the whole of the Autumn term. However, if circumstances do arise, for example **if a large number of staff are unable to come to school or if the Government advises schools to close, we will notify you with as much notice as possible.** Although at present it is felt that this would be unlikely, you may need to give some thought to alternative childcare arrangements.

Should we have to close, I would like to reassure you that contingency plans will be in place and these will be implemented to ensure that children continue to receive education at home. Further information will be provided to you in due course should this be necessary.

All schools are working closely with Croydon Council and taking advice from both the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Health Protection Agency in the borough to ensure that plans are in place to limit the spread of transmission and to ensure as little disruption to children's education as possible.

If your child does show any flu like symptoms, they should not come to school, but you should seek appropriate advice from the National Pandemic Flu Service on: 0800 1 513 100 regarding assessment for treatment. Likewise, **if we consider that your child has flu-like symptoms, we have been advised to send them home and will call you to collect them.**

Certain groups are advised to contact their GP if they think that they have swine flu rather than contacting the National Pandemic Influenza service and these will be people with serious underlying health conditions, pregnant women, children under one year of age, people whose condition suddenly gets worse or whose condition is still getting worse after 7 days (5 days for a child).

We are also helping to reduce the chance of infection by encouraging children to wash their hands, especially when they first arrive at school and we have provided extra soap and paper towels to do this and your support in this would be welcomed.

You can also help reduce the spread of the virus by ensuring your family take some simple precautions:

- Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible
- Dispose of dirty tissues promptly and carefully
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from hands to face or to other people
- Clean hard surfaces (such as door handles) frequently using a normal cleaning product.
- Making sure your children follow this advice.

We will keep you informed as the situation develops and will communicate in the usual way through the Newsletters. Please also use the school website and Croydon Council's website; www.croydon.gov.uk/swineflu to monitor the situation.