

25 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

With the end of term fast approaching, I am writing to update you on the plans for our Celebration Week (Monday, 12 July to Friday, 16 July), the revised plans for our “Welcome to Undershaw – At Home” event, details about some filming that will be taking place next week, and to let you know of a Q & A session being held by *Family Voice Surrey*.

### **Celebration Week: Monday 12 July - Friday 16 July**

The week of 12 July will be an opportunity to celebrate together as a school and will also include additional activities to help the children prepare for next academic year.

For those students leaving us, it will be an opportunity to reflect on their time at the school and to share their memories with friends and family. For those students who are continuing their education with us it will be an opportunity to celebrate and look forward to next year.

The students will experience a whole range of emotions when they move from one chapter of their life to another. They will likely feel huge affection for the school, both as a physical space and as a place which has provided them with such wonderful experiences, great friends and memorable moments.

To ensure every student is supported appropriately we will be running some whole school events, combined with individual activities which will be guided and led by the staff who know them best.

Below is a timetable of the week’s activities:

#### **Monday**

We are very much looking forward to a visit from Miniland Farm, with whom we shall be working more closely in September, who’ll be visiting with their collection of miniature petting farm animals!

#### **Tuesday**

There will be various whole class trips to the Devil’s Punchbowl to make the most of this wonderful outdoor space, right on our doorstep.

#### **Wednesday**

We will have *JK Coaching* (who will become our external sports coach company in September) on site who will be running an afternoon of sporting activities.

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### Thursday

Weather permitting, there will be a whole school picnic today. If the weather is against us, however, we will arrange for the children to enjoy this activity inside complete with picnic blankets. Please note that today will also be the new date for our "Welcome to Undershaw" event, postponed from the afternoon of Thursday, 1 July. (Please see further details below.)

### Friday

To round off the week, we have arranged for an ice cream van to visit in the afternoon. For our 6<sup>th</sup> Form students who are leaving us, the week will end this evening with our Leavers' Prom and further information about this has already been sent to those involved.

### 1 July "Welcome to Undershaw – At Home" Event – now re-arranged to Thursday, 15 July

As you know, we had been hoping to host an afternoon event next Thursday, 1 July to welcome all parents together to meet in person and show everyone the campus and hear about the school's exciting future. However, with the government's continuing lockdown restrictions, we have decided to incorporate this into our Celebration Week. We would therefore invite you to come along, from 2pm to informally meet the SLT over a cup of tea, and have a guided tour of Undershaw supported by some of our students who are immensely proud of their school. If you would like to come along, please email [karen.marshall@steppingstones.org.uk](mailto:karen.marshall@steppingstones.org.uk) so we have an idea of numbers.

### New website – video filming

Davinia Swanston, our Marketing Officer, has asked me to pass on the following message:

Our school is such a unique place and one of which we can all feel very proud. We want that pride for the students and to that end we would like to put as much of the school into three-dimensions as possible for prospective parents looking at Undershaw for their child. On Thursday, 1 July I have arranged for a small film crew (two people) to come onto site and capture some footage of school life for a short video that will sit on the home page of the new website.

I have carefully selected a promotional video company to help me do this. They have years of experience in creating video content for schools and are particularly sensitive to the need of our students. The owner's son has ASD and attends a school very similar to Stepping Stones, so he knows first-hand the sensitivities of our students, and our families. He has an overwhelming desire to capture the essence of the school and he knows he cannot do that if he has a large crew running around all day with shoulder cameras and boom microphones – so this will not be happening. The technology is rather clever these days and the cameras are the size of 'a large golf ball'. The purpose of having cameras this small is that they can sit on the desks and the children forget they are there. This means they can capture the magic of a classroom and those moments of wonder as the teaching and learning connect.

As you are aware, we gather universal permissions at the start of each year, but I thought in this case you would like to hear from me directly about this one-off activity. In light of what I have mentioned above, if for any reason you would like to opt out of the filming, please contact me directly ([davinia.swanston@steppingstones.org.uk](mailto:davinia.swanston@steppingstones.org.uk)) and I can ensure no footage of your child reaches the final edit.

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Notice regarding a Q & A from *Family Voice Surrey*

We have been asked to forward the following to you all from *Family Voice Surrey*:

 **Family Voice Surrey** ...  
29 May · 🌐

28/6/21 Cerebra Q&A  
Join Emily, our Runnymede Coordinator, for a Q&A session with Kaileigh and Derek from Cerebra on Monday 28th June at 10.00am.  
Cerebra is the national charity dedicated to helping families with children with brain conditions discover a better life together. Through their research they offer solutions and advice to help these children and their families enjoy lives full of hope and discovery. Kaileigh will guide you through the services that Cerebra can offer to families with children aged 16 and under. She's also Cerebra's Sleep Practitioner.

Derek is Cerebra's Senior Legal Development Officer and will be on hand to answer any legal questions that you may have. If you are unable to attend, please email Emily any questions for Kaileigh or Derek prior to the event. This event is free to all FVS parent carer members across Surrey.  
For Zoom details for this event please email [emily.h@familyvoicesurrey.org](mailto:emily.h@familyvoicesurrey.org)

 **Online Q&A:**  
**Cerebra**   
Working wonders for children with brain conditions

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Finally, we are very much looking forward to sharing Celebration Week, an exciting week of activities with the children and, if you should have any queries at all, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



**Julie Goodyear**  
Director of Safeguarding (DSL), Welfare and Pastoral Care