



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

12th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Pick up and drop off

A polite reminder to parents and carers that **driving onto our site to pick up or drop off your child is not permitted**. This is so as to ensure the safety of students who are arriving and leaving as pedestrians and for the significant number of students who get school buses. It also makes it more challenging for staff who need to commute between sites. We have had to speak to some families politely about this and have not had a polite response back - this is not fair nor reasonable.

It is with regret that I need to write about this, but there has been an increase in parents and carers driving onto our site more recently, especially at Imberhorne Lane. In our bus bay, this increases risk to students especially, but in the main car parking area, this often creates blockages, as well as risks. We understand that some families live a distance away from school and that this will necessitate drop offs and pick ups from time to time, but would respectfully request that this is instead done at the nearby public car parks on Imberhorne Lane.

We also receive regular concerns from residents and our primary school colleagues on Windmill Lane about safe driving and parking and the risks this creates to pedestrians and students getting on buses. Please can I remind parents and carers not to park in our bus bays nor pick up/drop off in no stopping areas (clearly marked with yellow zig-zag lines). Where possible, it is requested that this instead takes place away from Windmill Lane, with students walking the final steps into school on foot. We appreciate your support with this matter.

Geography Field trips – Year 8

Thank you to the Geography team for leading such brilliant field trips for Year 8 students to the River Darent this week. Although the weather was sometimes not on our side, students were ultimately able to have an excellent hands-on experience of Geography field work in a very beautiful scene. The team are rightly proud of their field work offer at Key Stage 3 and we are also proud of the way that students represented the school on each day. We are now looking forward to the Year 7 field trips in a couple of weeks' time.

Government Guidance on Screen Use

We have this week had communication from the DfE that they are seeking evidence in a three-week consultation around guidance on screen use for 5-16 year olds. We will watch closely and contribute our voice, sharing the outcome with you once it is published. As a school, we understand that this is a challenging subject that provokes much debate, but would ultimately welcome some clear, evidence-informed advice for families to support you with implementing the boundaries that I know many of you are working hard on. It is clear to us that too much screen time creates an unmanageable risk to the mental health, wellbeing and safety of young people. Any measures to protect children from these potential harms must be considered carefully - we will also reflect on this guidance in line with the government's guidance on the banning of phones in schools and the current review of social media access and use amongst young people. If we are considering any further changes to our policies, we will ensure that these are clearly communicated. Phones have been banned in school from gate to bell for the last two academic years and this will remain the case, with any that are seen or heard confiscated.

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Thank a Teacher Day

A reminder that National Thank a Teacher Day is on Wednesday 17th June this year. If you feel inclined to do so, please take the time to complete an e-card for a brilliant teacher or member of support staff [here](#). Last year staff across the school received a number of messages and were incredibly grateful for the time that was put into giving them the recognition they so deserve.

Message from the Children's Commissioner - Dame Rachel de Souza

Reminder: As Children's Commissioner, I'm writing to ask for children at your school to take part in my national survey, The Big Future.

Students can take part here: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

Years 7-9 will do so in their Computing lessons, Year 10 in their LIFE lessons and Year 12 in their PSHE lessons before the end of term. If your child is in Year 11 or 13, please also encourage them to complete the survey.

As schools and colleges return for the final weeks of the academic year, this is a valuable opportunity for children and young people to reflect on their experiences, share what matters most to them, and tell us about their hopes and ambitions for the future in their own words.

I want to hear from children and young people aged 0–18 from every background, in every part of the country. The survey asks about the things they enjoy, the challenges they face, the changes they would like to see in their communities, and what they believe a good childhood should look like today.

Participation in The Big Future also provides schools with an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to civic engagement. The findings will help inform national conversations and decision-making about children's lives and futures at the highest levels.

Schools and colleges with the highest response levels will receive formal recognition and will be invited to attend my final Festival of Childhood, celebrating the voices and contributions of children and young people from across England.

To support you, I have created a pack of resources, including an introductory video, lesson materials and FAQs, all available on [my website](#).

I will publish the findings next year, and they will help shape the conversations and decisions being made about children's lives and futures for years to come.

As ever, thank you so much for your support.

Dame Rachel de Souza

Children's Commissioner for England

Key dates for the half term ahead

To ensure that nothing is missed, I have again included a list of the events taking place this half term for your convenience:

- Mon 15th-Fri 19th June: Year 10 Art and Photography Mock Exams and Year 12 Mock Exams
- Tues 16th and Weds 17th June: Summer Stage Performances
- Thurs 18th June: Year 8 Celebration evening (by invite)
- Fri 19th June: End of GCSE and A-Level Exams
- Mon 22nd-Fri 26th June: Year 10 Mock Exam Week
- Mon 22nd June: Year 12 Personal Statement and CV Writing Workshops
- Tues 23rd June: Year 12 Sports Day
- Tues 23rd, Thurs 24th and Fri 26th June: Year 7 Geography Field Trips
- Weds 24th June: Music Summer Concert and Year 12 Criminology Trip to The Old Bailey
- Thurs 25th June: Sixth Form Transition Evening



- Fri 26th June: Year 11 Prom
- Mon 29th and Tues 30th June: INSET DAY
- Weds 1st July: Year 6 Induction Day and Evening, Year 12 Art and Photography RA Trip, Year 12 Volunteering in the Community, Year 8 Futures Day (At Imberhorne Lane), Year 7 Take Your Child to Work Day
- Weds 1st July-Fri 3rd July: Year 10 MFL Orals and Year 12 Geography Field Trips
- Thurs 2nd, Fri 3rd and Mon 6th July: Year 9 Assessments and Induction at IL
- Thurs 2nd July: Year 10 Work Experience Preparation Day, Year 13 Prom. Year 7 STEM Theatre Performance
- Mon 6th-Fri 10th July: Years 10 and 12 Work Experience, Year 12 Sweden Trip
- Tues 7th July: Key Stage Three Sports Day at Imberhorne Lane
- Weds 8th-Fri 10th July: Year 9 Camp
- Weds 8th July: Year 8 Hands On History Experience
- Thurs 9th July: Year 7 Hands On History Experience, Art and Photography Exhibition at Imberhorne Lane
- Mon 13th July: Year 10 CV and Letter Writing Workshops
- Weds 15th July: Year 10 Celebration Evening (by invite)
- Thurs 16th July: Year 10 Futures Mock Interview Day, Year 9 Celebration Evening (all families invited)
- Tues 21st July: Year 10 Sixth Form Taster or Challenge Troop Day, Year 12 Volunteering Day
- Weds 22nd July: Last day of term - finish at 12.30pm

Yours sincerely

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher