Exec. Headteacher: Mrs J Olivier **Head of School:** Mr M Currie **Deputy Head Teacher:** Mr L Clarke

Dear Parents and Carers.

Welcome back to all of the South Borough children and parents. I hope you had a fantastic Easter break and enjoyed spending time with your children in the sun. It has been lovely to see the children return this week with smiles on their faces and a noticeable eagerness to learn. Mrs Tritton and Mr Nankervis have been working hard on various jobs around the school, whilst we have been on holiday. The office area/foyer and corridors have all had paint jobs, new windows have been installed in the older classrooms and the doors in the halls have been replaced. Thanks to all those involved for your hard work.

Gate opening times - mornings

Well done to all of those who remembered the new gate opening times for drop off. As a further reminder:

The start of the school day is officially 8:50am. Gates 1, 2 and 3 will be opened from 8:40-8:50am only.

Any children arriving after this time should enter via the school office, where they will be signed in as late.

Staffing news

This week we are delighted to welcome a few new members of staff, who are supporting children across the school. We welcome new permanent members of staff: Ms Tilbrook, as a Year 3 TA and Mrs Matthews as a play leader. We have also welcomed our sports coach, Robbie, who will be in school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We know that these new additions to our team will be a fantastic asset.

Appreciation

This week's 'expectation of the week' is: *it's great to be grateful*. In our themed assembly on Tuesday, I spoke to the children about how important it is to be grateful for things we have and people in our lives. We explored the importance of saying thank you all the time and never just expecting that someone will do something for you. We have introduced daily 'appreciation sharing', where children in classes thank someone and explain the reason why. This could be a friend, member of staff or someone at home. We would urge parents to get on board by asking your child who/what they are grateful for and why.

Statutory assessments

For the first time in 2 years, children in certain year groups will be taking part in statutory assessments. More detailed information will be sent regarding the specific arrangements in each year group. In the meantime, I thought it would be useful to remind parents of the dates. Please understand that absence (other than illness) will not be authorised for children in these year groups on these dates:

Year 2 SATs tests ('special mission to the children').

Year 6 SATs tests

Year 1 and 2 Phonics

Year 4 Times Table Checks

Tests in small groups throughout the month of May Monday 9th May - Thursday 12th May 2022 Monday 6th June - Friday 10th June 2022 Checks completed during period 6th-24th June 2022

Thanks as always for your amazing support. Wishing you all a great weekend.

Mathew Currie Head of School