

## Southwood Infant School

Southwood Infant School's biweekly publication for  
Parents, Teachers, Governors and Friends.

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome back to you **all** and a special welcome to all our brand new reception children. It's been a wonderful start to the term with the return of all our children after such a long absence. The school has been buzzing once again with the sound of children and we have been so impressed with the way the Year 1 and 2 children are so engaged with their learning after such a long spell out of school.

This year we are delighted to welcome Miss Loyd (Fireflies teacher) and Miss Wilson (Dragonflies teacher) to our teaching team. Also new to our team is Mrs Attree who is working in Fireflies. We also have two new lunchtime supervisors Mrs Taylor (another one!) and Mrs Litwin.

Our main focus for the first few weeks will be to settle the children back into school and familiarise them with their new classrooms. Reception children will continue their transition sessions next week where they get to know the staff and begin to learn the rules and routines of the school and make new friends, before starting full time on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

I don't need to remind you that coronavirus is still out there. Although in Hampshire we are currently below the national average for England, we need to stay vigilant and play our part to help protect each other and prevent another lockdown and school closure. No one wants that to happen! It is crucial that we all follow the advice and social distance and wash hands regularly.

Thank you to everyone for your patience with our new staggered start and drop offs. We are trying to be really quick at the door so please do not expect to have a normal chit chat with the teachers. Please help us by having your child ready with their book bag and water bottle. Any delays just cause everyone behind you to wait longer. If you desperately need to speak to the teacher please telephone and we will do our best to speak to you that day. There are some parents who need to pick up quickly in order to make collections at Junior schools so please let them whizz through if they ask to pass. **Can I also remind everyone to stick to the times so that bubbles are not mixing.**



### Upcoming Events

#### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September

KS1 Royal Dressing Up Day!  
KS1 Curriculum Presentation  
available on Tapestry

#### From 21<sup>st</sup> September

Year 1 and 2  
Meet the teacher

#### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September

Early Years Phonic and  
Reading Presentation  
available on Tapestry and  
website

#### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October

New Parent Presentation and  
virtual tour available on  
website

#### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October

Individual school photographs

Year 2 drop off 8.30 -8.40am / collection 2.40 -2.50pm

Year 1 drop off 8.40 – 8.50am / collection 2.50 – 3pm

Year R drop off 8.50 – 9am / collection 3 – 3.10pm

There is an awful lot of information in this week's newsletter. Please read it carefully so you are up to date with all our new routines and procedures in school. The latest Covid 19 risk assessment is published on the school website on our home page. Remember to check our website regularly for information and updates. <http://southwoodinfantschool.co.uk/>

### Hygiene and Illness

#### **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE ILL**

As we have previously stated the number one priority for us all is to stay safe and well. The school has put in a huge amount of work in order to keep everyone safe.

**Sending your child to school with a cough or temperature will jeopardise the school remaining open to all children. Unfortunately we had to send a number of children home yesterday. It is totally unacceptable to put my staff or other children at risk.**

**I cannot stress enough that if too many teachers become ill the school will be closed to all children.**

**If any child or staff member is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 - a cough or temperature - they will be sent home immediately and you will be advised to follow government guidance for households.**



### New Curriculum Topics

This year begins with all of the children starting their new topics. The curriculum for each year group has been designed around the following themes.

Year R – All the Colours of the Rainbow

Year 1 and 2 – Kings and Queens

The year group curriculum overviews have been sent out via Parentmail and are available on our Year Group pages on our website.

We have separate role play areas set up outside this year for children to experience a banqueting hall and castle life.

## **Golden Rules**

This week the children have been reminded of our school's Golden Rules and have been learning them in class and during our assemblies. Each class has the same, consistent approach for rewards and sanctions set up in their classrooms. Do ask your child to explain how the rainbow, sun and cloud system works.

**We are kind and helpful**

**We are honest**

**We are gentle**

**We listen to people**

**We look after property**

**We work hard**

## **Assemblies and Certificates**

We are trying to run school as normally as possible for the children but there are some challenging restrictions. I will be holding year group assemblies every week but because we are not allowed to mix year group bubbles our Friday celebration assemblies will now be on a weekly rota starting with Year 2 today. Children will still be awarded with Headteacher, Good Neighbour, Reading and Lunchtime certificates but these will not be able to be sent home. Sorry. Instead we will upload, on Tapestry, a photograph of your child receiving their award. Certificates will be sent home only at the end of half term.

## **Curriculum Presentations and Meet the Teacher**

Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions we are now working with, we are not able to invite parents into school or hold mass gatherings so we are planning to go virtual for our curriculum presentations this term.

We also want to offer the parents of Year 1 and 2 children the chance to meet their new teachers so we will be holding a 10 minute "meet the new teacher" slot from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September. This is a chance for you to ask any questions about the new class now the children have settled in. These meetings will take place outside on the Year 1 and 2 playgrounds where social distancing can take place. We have to limit these to one parent **ONLY**. Please book your slot using our Parentmail system. You will receive your invitation to book early next week. Please note that in the Ladybirds class Mrs Taylor is available on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Miss Barnes works on Thursday and Friday.

Our KS1 Curriculum Presentation will be uploaded on to Tapestry on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September. This will give you lots of information about how we plan and deliver the KS1 curriculum. There will be information about Year 1 and Year 2 including; English, maths, phonics, reading, flexible groupings, homework and our topics. The curriculum overviews have been sent out on Parentmail and are on the year group website pages.

For parents of children starting Early Years this September there will be a phonics/reading presentation up loaded on to Tapestry on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September. This will be a fun but very necessary briefing on how you can reinforce the taught phonic skills children require in order to become successful readers.

After half term we will be holding parent consultation through Microsoft Teams or Zoom. These virtual meetings will give you a chance to discuss your child's individual learning and targets will be emailed.

### Starting School in September 2021

If you have a child due to start school in September please take a look at our virtual school tour and presentation slides. These will shortly be available on our school website <https://southwoodinfantschool.co.uk/> under the "starting school" tab.

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions we are unable to give parent tours at the moment However please phone the office to book a virtual discussion with the Headteacher who will be able to answer all your questions.



### Parent Feedback

Thank you to everyone who returned our annual parent questionnaire at the end of last term. It was a delight to read all your positive comments, particular about how the school managed lockdown.

Parent feedback		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My child enjoys school		81%	15%	4%	
The school keeps my child safe		88%	12%		
The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future		48%	36%	12%	4%
The school communicates effectively with parents		92%	8%		
The school meets my child's particular needs		85%	15%		
The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour		61%	23%	15%	
The school is led and managed effectively by the headteacher, senior staff and governors		81%	19%		

Transition to junior schools was obviously an issue for a few parents but this was something completely out of our control this year and is entirely down to the junior schools not being able to offer transition days due to Covid restrictions.

### **Comments on what does your child like about Southwood**

- Everything
- Teachers, office staff, classroom, play area, golden time, woodland walk
- Staff, rewards, art, PE, curriculum
- The teachers, the learning, everything about the school
- The friendliness of everyone and is made to feel part of the school
- My child adores school, all aspects
- Science and computing are her favourite subjects but that she is enjoying the homework too
- African topic, new slide climbing frame, teaching assistants
- Maths & playing outside
- He loves school generally, and is extremely happy with surroundings, routine, teachers and other staff there

### **Feedback about lockdown**

- Tapestry has been invaluable for keeping the link between pupils and teachers. Thank you for all your efforts
- The school has been amazing - lots of updates and interactions via Tapestry. I couldn't have asked for more it made him feel connected to the school even though he wasn't there, 10/10
- The communication from school throughout lockdown was regular & informative. The use of Tapestry with the varied work, videos and worksheets was a brilliant support to those of us home-schooling.
- Thank-you for your continued hard work and support. The fact that teachers, teaching assistants and SLT have presented and responded to the learning activities on Tapestry is testament to how the school pulls together and works as one
- A big shoutout to the teachers who went above and beyond to create videos, learning resources, read stories, gave feedback on work and generally aided us parents in trying to fill the educational void created by the lockdown. I can't fault them in any way

### **How far do we achieve our core values: Excellent, Respect and Enjoyment**

- Keep up your high standards
- I can't think of anything that would improve Southwood Infants School - in my opinion it is already outstanding
- Fully achieved
- Top marks for all
- From our view we feel you achieve the core values amazingly well.
- 100% achieved
- Fully achieved, Southwood is a wonderful school and I feel very lucky to have my daughter attend
- Excellent does not need to improve

- I feel a very high standard has been achieved
- I feel that the school completely fulfils these values.
- Nothing comes to mind
- We feel as a family you fully achieve the core values of the school
- Excellent

As a school we don't let things stand still and we are never complacent. We will continue to ensure that all the team continue to develop and improve the already fantastic provision in school, despite the shrinking budget.

### **School Improvement Plan 2020-2021**

Over the summer the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors have thought carefully about what we want our priorities to be this year. Our number one priority is to get our children back in school and on track.

Our School Improvement Plan sets out areas for development for the next year. A full version will shortly be available on the school website under "our school" tab.

There are four key strands

- **Quality of Education** - To continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning towards outstanding
- **Leadership** - To strengthen the capacity of leaders at all levels to ensure highly effective teaching, learning & assessment across the school curriculum
- **Personal Development and Well Being** - Provide high-quality pastoral care and support
- **Curriculum** – Provide an inspiring curriculum built around interesting topics and first-hand experience which excite and motivates all learners

### **Reading at School**

Reading at Southwood is given very high priority within school.

In order to teach all our children to become fluent, confident readers who have a love of reading, all pupils within the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 receive phonics teaching in line with the 'Letters and Sounds' document. From Reception onwards, children receive a twenty minute daily phonics lesson, targeted at their current level of attainment, and are encouraged to apply this learning in their reading and writing.

In KS1 all classes have daily guided reading. This is a dedicated 20-25 minute reading session where all children complete purposeful reading activities within small groups. A range of comprehension activities develops children's understanding.

All children are encouraged to take books to share at home and these are a range of levelled books according to the National Reading Bands. A large proportion of books are derived from the 'Oxford Reading Tree Scheme'. A reward system is used to encourage reading at home and children are expected to read at least four times per week. We do require the children to have their reading record booklets with them each day. In KS1 children are expected to change their shared books independently and they are given time every day to do this.

### **Reading Challenge**

The children all have their own class miniboard on the wall to display their bronze, silver, gold and diamond reading challenge awards.

## Reading at Home

Parental involvement is highly valued and parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's reading development through the sharing and enjoyment of books. It is really important to continue to encourage your child to read every day. A little daily reading in a relaxed environment really does add up to an independent reader in the juniors. If your child is too tired at the end of a busy school day, then please do take the opportunity to read to them. Studies have shown that being read to is a significant factor in later reading and writing ability. Daily reading practice at home with you, in partnership with our group, individual and class reading at school, really is a winning combination. Please support your child with this crucial life skill.

## School Library

We are very fortunate to have Mrs Elliot-Bunt to help us with our library. Mrs Elliot-Bunt volunteers three mornings a week and this gives the children the opportunity and time to choose a library book. The library will be up and running the week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September. Please see your child's class library day below. Please ensure your child's library book is returned to school so they can change it and bring a new one home to share.

- Monday – Year 1
- Tuesday – Year 2
- Wednesday – Year R

## Breakfast and Afterschool Club

The Breakfast and Afterschool club, managed by Get Active, are now taking bookings. They are offering up to 30 places a day so please ensure you book through their online system. This club is running from the school hall so it can accommodate different bubbles of children.

To book a place please visit

<https://www.getactivesports.com/get-active-courses/breakfast-after-school-clubs/>

### Prices & Times

7:30am-8:40am Breakfast Club - Breakfast included - £5.50 per day

3pm-6pm Afterschool Club Long Session - Includes cold meal - £12.95 per day

The club will provide your children with a wide range of stimulating sports, creative activities, team games, themed arts and crafts and a whole host of imaginative things to make and do!

If you are interested in booking a space over half term (October 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>) please respond to yesterday's Parentmail.

## Inset Days 2020/21

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (polling day)

## Calendar

We are also attaching a copy of the 2020/21 calendar from Hampshire County Council showing all the term dates.

## **IMPORTANT HOUSEKEEPING**

### **Allergies**

Please remember that we are a nut-free school. Please therefore ensure that any products in lunch boxes are nut free. Many thanks for your understanding.

### **PE Kits**

Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit in school at all times. Children take part in two PE sessions a week. Year 2 (Tuesday) and Year 1 (Wednesday) sessions are with Darren our sports coach. To avoid cutting the children's teaching time down they may be sent home in their PE kits at the end of the day but these will be need to returned the next day please.

### **Jewellery Policy**

Please see the following extract from our Jewellery Policy and in particular note the requirements concerning earrings and PE. If your child will be removing their earrings for PE it would be helpful to provide a small pot to keep in their PE bag to put them in. Many thanks for your co-operation.

*Jewellery and earrings are known to be potentially dangerous. Hampshire County Council and National Safety Documents all state that earrings and jewellery should be removed for PE/Games activities.*

*Rings, bracelets or necklaces must not be worn by children at any time.*

*Watches may be worn by pupils at their own risk. They must be removed for PE/Games activities.*

*Long hair should be tied back for PE/Games activities.*

*Only 'stud' earrings may be worn (no dangling or hooped earrings), but they must be removed for PE/Games activities.*

*The school cannot accept any responsibility for watches or jewellery worn by the children.*

*Where a child is unable to remove their earrings, the earrings should be covered with tape. Children must be taught to manage this themselves under adult supervision.*

### **Parking**

A polite reminder that parking is not permitted in the approach road to the school or in the school car park. Parents are requested to park in the Community Centre car park. Please can you make sure that childminders, grandparents and friends are aware of this rule.

Out of respect for our neighbours, please can we request that you do not park in the roads nearby. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Contacting the School**

Please note the School Office is open from 8.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday.

If you wish to report your child's absence out of these hours please leave a message on the answer phone which is checked daily. Following safeguarding procedures we will telephone you if your child is absent and you have not left a message for us explaining the reason.

### **Labelling School Uniform**

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE Can we ask that all clothing is named; this helps us return your child to you with his/her own clothes! Lost property will only be kept for a few weeks so those name labels are really important!

## Contact Details

Please can you make sure that we have updated contact details for your child. It is vitally important that we have current mobile phone and home numbers in case we need to contact you in an emergency. Please email the office if you have changed your address or phone numbers over the summer holiday.

Please also update us with any medical needs if necessary.

AND FINALLY...

Please remember we operate an open door policy (although not literally at the moment). However if you have any concerns or questions relating to our child, please do contact us.

We look forward to a happy and successful year together and to supporting all the children in continuing their learning journey here at Southwood Infant School.

Best Wishes,

Wendy Southgate  
**Headteacher**

# Southwood Awards

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Headteacher's Award for Good Work

Lilli-Eve Harman - For working hard and showing her morning table how to get on independently.

Stanley Kemp - For fabulous imagination in his writing for our 'Queen's Knickers' work.

## Good Neighbour Award

Olivia Bowers - For welcoming another child to the class by being helpful and kind.

Ethan Plunkett - For being an excellent role model in the classroom.

## Lunchtime Mega Stars

For super manners, eating well and good behaviour in the playground at lunchtime

Megan F

Max B

George E

Olivia B

Cameron P

Anaya L

