



Southmead Primary School Newsletter

Issue 15

**Friday 10th
January
2020**

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Hello everyone and welcome back. Hopefully, you found the extended Christmas break relaxing and managed to spend some time seeing family and friends.

New Sound System

I would like to thank the SFA and you for helping us to purchase our new sound system for the hall. Ice-cream sales and school production donations have helped us afford this amazing piece of equipment which will now be able to support assemblies, school productions, PE lessons (inside and outside), lunchtimes and others lessons across the curriculum. It is truly enriching our children's experience at school.



Parking

Can I please remind parents not to park in the laybys outside of the school. They are there to ease congestion and provide safe, clear crossing points for children and families.

SEND

Please see attached flyer for Parent Workshops in March that the Communication and Interaction Team are running – Speech, Language and Communication Needs Parent Workshops 2020. There is a choice of venues across Devon for parents to choose from.

SEND drop-ins have started again this term every Tuesday 8.30 - 9.30am and are open to anyone with any SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities) queries or questions and for anyone wanting to have a chat and a coffee in a relaxed setting with other parents. Parents with little ones are welcome with plenty of activities available to keep them occupied!

Books

I am pleased to start returning last year's books to your children from today. I know the amount of work that goes into these books and how nice it is for the children to share their work with you. There are memories and learning in their books that they will look back in years to come and remember their teachers and the journey they have been on.

Bags2School

Next week, you will receive a Bag2School bag with your child. Last year, we managed to raise over £250 via this which helped purchase new ICT resources across the school. This year, the bags will be collected on 13th February but we are hoping

to also sell the clothes after school from Monday 10th February to Wednesday 12th February for 50p to £1 each before sending the rest off to be weighed for collection by Bags2School. If you could kindly bag male/female clothes separately, it would be greatly appreciated. Please come along and see the clothes available. Last year, wet suits, jeans, denim jackets and some beautiful dresses were amongst some bags that split when they were being loaded into the van so you might be able to grab a bargain and help us too.

Census Day

Next Thursday is Census Day, where we receive funding for the year ahead. As a result, we have changed our dinner menu as we are funded on school dinner uptake from EYFS (Reception) to Year 2, attendance and numbers on roll. To confirm, next Thursday's and Friday's menu will be:

Thursday - Sausage Roll/Veggie Sausage Roll and Chips
Friday - Chicken/Vegetable Korma

Choir

Choir is changing. From next week, choir will be on a Tuesday morning before school, at 8am, with Sophie Kerslake and myself. Children will be able to enter via the Year 6 patio, straight into Ravens. We are going to start rehearsing for our next major event - Our Junior Music Festival at Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple. Please note that the choir is currently open for Year 3 upwards. Numbers may also be restricted for the Junior Music Festival so commitment is essential.

Attendance

Why is good Attendance important?

Children with good attendance have a better chance of achieving their best and flourishing in school. It builds their self esteem and allows them to make and maintain friendships.

What do we expect at Southmead?

We expect every child to strive to achieve 98% attendance over the year.

Why do we monitor Attendance?

Daily attendance is monitored for safeguarding purposes. If your child is absent and no reason has been given we will call you to find out why they are not in school. This is to rule out something that may have happened on the way to school.

If attendance starts to become a concern there are ways we can help through the School Home Liaison Officer and School Nurse Referrals.

More serious attendance concerns are dealt with by our Education Welfare Officer – Linda Webster. Those with attendance below 90% are automatically referred to the EWO.

What happens when you are Late?

If your child is not in class by 9am they will need to be signed in at the school office. Children arriving after 9am will receive a late mark. Those arriving after 9.10am will receive a U code which means the registers have closed and minutes late after 9.10am will be noted.

What to do in case of Absence?

Call 01271 812448 and leave a message on the 24hr absence line. Report the absence via the Southmead App.

What happens when Attendance becomes a concern?

Initial concerns are reported to the Headteacher. Early help includes phone calls/meetings with our Home Liaison Officer and School Nurse Referrals. The Education Welfare Officer is alerted when regular attendance monitoring picks up children with less than 90% attendance.

SFA News

The SFA welcomes you all back to the first term of this new decade, we hope you had a great Christmas break and that you are all refreshed and energised for this new term. Thanks for all the money raised with Christmas tree decorations and at the Christmas Fair last term. Thanks also to all the helpers who volunteered in various ways, providing food and prizes, running stalls and to those who came along to the Fair. You helped us raise just over £1000 that will go towards purchasing and installing the new climbing wall. You also helped us to 'Snow Pie' Mr Plumb!

We're planning some more exciting activities this term so that we can help our children be a part of developing their school.

If you are interested in helping out with the activities as a Friend of Southmead, please let the School Office know or you can contact me (Sean Mullens) on 07946025762 or seanmullens@gmail.com

Happy New Year/Decade

Sean Mullens

SFA Chair



September 2020 EYFS Intake

The deadline to apply for an EYFS place in September 2020 is Wednesday 15th January. You can apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline if you need any assistance, please contact the school office.

Coughs Colds and Medications

With coughs, colds and temperatures becoming common amongst our pupils and staff, please remember we can give non prescribed medications in school (with written parental consent) for keeping fevers down and helping to make your child more comfortable. This includes things such as Calpol and infant Ibuprofen.

Music Lessons and Clubs

Music lessons and clubs will all commence next week. If you would like your child to start learning a musical instrument, please contact our school office and we will endeavour to arrange this for you. Currently, we have piano/keyboard, vocal, violin, guitar, trumpet/cornet and clarinet lessons.

Competition Time

We are encouraging parents and pupils to read our newsletter. Please reply to this email with the answer to, 'Which day will choir rehearse on from next week?' A prize for the lucky response chosen at random. Last term only a handful of people replied in the last weeks so please respond for your chance to win.

Final Message

Please ensure you read with your children and practise their spellings and tables (where set) as we start the New Year together to help your child achieve the best that they can.

Star of the Week	
Hermit Crabs	Lucas S
Starfish	Noah R
Shrimps	William Y
Periwinkles	Ghazal A D
Sandpipers	Paddy H
Kittiwakes	Regardt N
Curlews	Evie W
Puffins	Layla S
Dolphins	Ella-Gale B
Porpoises	Sam K
Grey Seals	Belle F
Otters	Ruben C
Peregrine	Ben J-C
Raven	Griff M M

Weekly Attendance %	
Hermit Crabs	98.15
Starfish	94.71
Shrimps	94.71
Periwinkles	93.75
Sandpipers	96.67
Kittiwakes	96.37
Curlews	94.91
Puffins	92.31
Dolphins	97.69
Porpoises	96.35
Grey Seals	95.37
Otters	88.39
Peregrine	95.83
Raven	94.79

Tue 7th Jan	First day of Spring Term	All
Thu 16 th Jan	Sept 2020 EYFS Intake Welcome Session, 9.30am	
Thu 16 th Jan	Science at Braunton Academy	6RAV
Tue 21 st Jan	Times Tables Parent Meeting	Year 4
Thu 30 th Jan	Scholastic Book Fair	All
Fri 31 st Jan	Scholastic Book Fair	All
Mon 3 rd Feb	Scholastic Book Fair	All
Tue 4 th Feb	Scholastic Book Fair	All
Mon 17th Feb	Half Term	All
Mon 24th Feb	Back to School	All
Mon 24 th Feb	Height and Weight checks	Year 6
Wed 26 Feb	Tarka Tennis Festival	Year 2