



# Headteacher Newsletter

***Believe in yourself, Value others, Be proud of your achievements, Smile, Shine, Be happy.***



Welcome to a brand new academic year, how quickly did the Summer go!

I am really pleased to say that we have all had a fantastic start to the brand new year, all of the children have come in very settled and we are once again amazed at how the brilliant the Reception classes children have settled into life at Southfields.

In the first few days of term Reception had 'Move Up Days' which did make for a smooth transition into full time access so that was a

great start. The rest of the school came back ready to learn and have all grown so much over the Summer. I am amazed how many children are already starting to tower over me, how did that happen?

As we welcome in our new children it is also a time to welcome some new members of staff to the team. So can I officially welcome Mrs Harlow who joins the Early Years Team, Miss Davis joins the Year 1 Team and Mr Howlett who comes to lead our Computing department. We also welcome Mrs Sutton and Miss Maracine who have made the decision to join the teaching profession and support them fully with their training journey this year. You may have noticed we have put in quite a lot of handwork taking place over the summer and hope you will join me in thanking all of the staff for their hard work and continued commitment to making the school look and feel as welcoming and inspiring for the children as it does.

The start of this term has already been very busy as we have jumped in with both feet. The first few days back we had a great treat for our KS2 children with a visit from M&M Productions who shared their version of 'Charlotte's Web'. The children absolutely loved it and have completed some wonderful writing based activities to share with you all soon. We have also booked another theatre company to visit for the KS1 and Early Years classes coming up before the end of this half term with the Little Blue Bus company who will be performing a production of Pirate Pearl and the Big Blue Monster which links in to our reading and writing...we can not wait for this!

On our first full week back we introduced our Math's Cafe with Year 5 starting us off and Year 6 following suit. All other year groups are planned in this term so please keep an eye out for these upcoming events. Parents have been so inspired with math's, I am sure lots of you will be carrying on with some of the activities at home too!

In the second week of term we were visited by a Mad Scientist who wowed pupils with amazing experiments to try at home! The Year 6's visited Cadbury World to look at the journey from bean to bar and we also had 38 Clubs begin...wow! Once again this year we have many clubs running throughout the week. The uptake of these has been fantastic and most clubs are full or over subscribed. There are a few waiting lists and these children will be given first choice of clubs in the Spring term.

Zoo Lab visited Year 6 in school, Rhythmicity ran some workshops with Year 3, 4 and 5, the Year 5 children will travel tomorrow to the Space Centre. The inflatable planetarium will also be visiting school to further inspire Science in Year 5 and their understanding of Space.

As many of you already know, the Autumn term is one of my favourites with Harvest celebrations, Children in Need PJ Day and the big run up to Christmas. We have got a lot planned in to a very short space of time so please take a look at the extended diary dates at the end of our newsletter for all of the information you need to what is coming up.

As requested by the parents, each week Mrs King and I will be sharing important dates for the following week. We have asked all of the teachers to also keep you up to date more often on Class Dojo so that you know what is going on, reminders to think about and where you can support as necessary.

So as we look forward to the term can I remind you all of our one school rule - **to be kind**. Kindness is the most important thing to us in school and if everyone is kind to each other the world would be a much better place. So I have asked the children to really think about their actions and ask themselves, is this kind? Let's spread happiness and joy across the school and instil this in our children hearts for a brighter future. Can I please extend this rule to our whole school community including parents, carers, governors, staff and beyond. We expect and appreciate your kindness and support in following our one school rule to make our environment a respectful, happy and safe space for all of us.



## Highlights from the past month

Our Reception pupils have had a fantastic first few weeks in the Early Years Base.

All of the Year groups have settled back in and jumped in with both feet to their new learning.

M&M Productions visited KS2 with a performance of Charlotte's Web.

The staff have all completed two Professional training days and are all raring to go for the new academic year with lots of exciting learning opportunities planned for your little ones :)

## Partners in Education

At Southfields we believe that we are a part of the partnership with parents and carers in their children’s education. If we work together, it is a known fact that pupils attainment and enjoyment of learning increases. With this in mind please can we ask that all parents and carers do their utmost to support school with this process. Please join in with events in school, promote the work that the children do and support us in supporting your children with their homework. In return we will provide you with all the tools you need to ensure your children succeed in their education. We will continue to support you all in areas you feel necessary and provide workshops to help fill the gaps. We have already scheduled in several parent workshops over the Autumn term and beyond, but please ask if there is anything you feel would be useful.

Alongside this, I have another big ask. Do you or anyone in your family have some additional time each week which they could dedicate to school? We are looking for volunteers to join our Reading Buddies scheme. Full training will be provided so if you are interested in finding out more please get in contact with us. All volunteers would be subject to an DBS check in line with our Safeguarding procedures.

## Attendance

Last year attendance dropped with more and more parents taking term time holidays and 8% of the school being persistently absent. This is a whole school focus and must improve.

Ensuring your child is in school every day is extremely important so that they do not miss out on important learning in their sequence of education.

As a school we have set a target of 96.5% which is monitored by the Local Authority. If any child’s attendance drops below 95%, they will be placed on an attendance plan where the teacher and Attendance Officer who will work closely with you to improve this. Many pupils have a plan already in place due to their attendance figures from the previous academic year.

We understand that sometimes it is not possible for children to attend because of illness and ask that on these occasions, parents call the ‘absence line’ and leave a recorded message for the team. Alternatively you can send your class teachers a direct message on Class Dojo who will then record this on the register.

Lateness is also a key priority and we have Mrs Bush and Mrs Loasby (High Level Teaching Assistants) working hard to monitor and improve this. Please be aware that we are well within our rights to issue fines if we see appropriate, for consistent lateness. Please appreciate that if you are late collecting we as a school need to provide additional cover at a cost to yourselves. We understand and will give leniency for odd occasions.



## ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

Punctual Achievement:

Look out for upcoming Punctual Attendance winners. Who has been on time and in school all week? Who has captured the awards this time?

Achievements KS1:

Here you will see all of the children who have received an award in the KS1 Celebration Assemblies held throughout the week.

Achievements KS2:

Here you will see all of the children who have received an award in the KS2 Celebration Assemblies held throughout the week.

Mathletes of the week:

Look out for all of our Mathlete’s of the week award



**Lateness adds up!**  
 Being 15 minutes late everyday will add up to **TWO WEEKS** of school missed every year!



## BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Shanice, Logan, Micah, Shahd, Â Thomas, Bella, Liam, Katie, Alexander, Â Bradley, Scarlet, Katie, Harley, Mia, Sinead, Alfie, Sophie, Â Quinton-Rafe, Luke, Owen, Franciszek, Paige, Luke, Noah, Vanessa, Toby, Evie, Destiny, Alfie, Ethan, Efe, Â Aun, Haaris, Prathika, Max, Robert, Kai, Adam, Elmantas, Denzel, Katya, Maghna, Antoni, Jack, Oliver, Connie, Elisha, Kai, Samantha, Â Julia, Darcie, Kaden and Tyler .

## HOUSE POINTS

Below you will see the points gathered each month for our Houses which are:

**The Red Robins**  
**The Yellow Canaries**  
**The Blue Kingfishers**  
**The Green Parrots**



## PARENT'S COMMENTS TO THE HEAD

As always we really value your opinions about our school. Please add your comments here for the Headteacher. You can return them in an envelope if you would prefer them to remain confidential.

Please post your feedback into the box in the main office. Thank you for taking the time to provide us with some feedback.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### September 2018

Monday 24th - Year 6 Zoo Lab  
 Tuesday 25th - Rhythmicity Drumming Workshops for Year 3,4 and 5  
 Wednesday 26th - Year 2 Stibbington Parents Meeting in KS1 Hall 6pm  
 Thursday 27th - Year 5 to Space Centre  
 Friday 28th - PTA Macmillan Coffee Morning 2pm in KS1 hall

### October 2018

Monday 1st - Year R to Library  
 WB Monday 1st - Year 4 Math's Cafe  
 Tuesday 2nd - Stanground Academy Meeting for Year 6 Parents KS2 hall 6pm  
 Wednesday 3rd - Year 5 Planetarium  
 Thursday 4th - School Photograph Day  
 Monday 8th - Year 4 Roman Day  
 Monday 8th - Year 3 Math's Cafe  
 Tuesday 9th - Year R to Fineshades Wood  
 Wednesday 10th - Year 2 to Nene Valley Railway  
 WB Monday 15th - Year 2 Math's Cafe  
 Friday 19th - KS1 Theatre Group in  
 Monday 22nd - Friday 26th - Half term  
 WB Monday 29th - Year 1 Math's Cafe

### November 2018

Tuesday 6th - Thursday 8th - Parents Evenings  
 WB Monday 12th - Year R Maths Cafe's  
 Wednesday 14th - Year 3 Harvest  
 Friday 16th - Children in Need PJ's

### December 2018

Wednesday 5th - Whole School Pantomime in school  
 Friday 7th - Christmas Fete  
 Tuesday 11th - Year 5 Xmas Productions  
 Wednesday 12th - Year 1 Xmas Productions  
 Thursday 13th - KS2 Christingle  
 Thursday 13th - Year 2 Xmas WB Productions  
 Friday 14th - Year 4 Christingle  
 Monday 17th - Year R Xmas Performances  
 Tuesday 18th - KS1 Christingle  
 Tuesday 18th - Santa visits!  
 Wednesday 19th - Talent Show, Christmas dinner and Disco  
 Wednesday 19th - break up for Xmas