

WELCOME TO TERM 6



It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the end of the school year and it is already Term 6!

Term 6 is an important term for learning (most progress is made in this term according to research) but it is also a time of reflection, review and then forward planning for the next school year. We appreciate that this can lead to some anxiety as well as excitement for parents and children! Final plans, including names of class teachers, will be made available when the reports are sent to parents and then we will have our Moving Up days and parent's meetings in the final weeks of this term (see dates at the end of the newsletter).

There are no changes anticipated to the existing class organisation for next year. We are delighted that our class based teaching staff will be staying with us for the next school year.

Unfortunately, and very sadly, we have had to restructure our staff due to the financial pressures and cuts the school has experienced this year. As a result, Miss Harrison and Mrs Hunt will be taking voluntary redundancy at the end of this year. Mrs Hunt will be coming back to work with us 1 day a week as our Outdoor learning specialist and Miss Harrison will be providing supply cover so we look forward to still seeing them both again in their new roles in the next school year.

We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Swan and Mrs Whiting who are both retiring. Mrs Swan is going on a 6 month cycling tour of South America but has promised to come back and help us with the garden and the Kit Car when she gets back. Mrs Whiting and her husband already have a couple of cruises planned. We will miss them both hugely and would like to thank them for the amazing contribution they have made to the education of so many South Malling children.

This is the last term for our Year 6 Purple Polar Bears. We will miss them as they begin the next phase of their school lives but we wish them all the very best for their future and hope they enjoy their last term with us.

Jo O'Donoghue, Headteacher

Looking Back: Term 5 Highlights

Thank you!

The support the school has received from the Parent's Funding group has been amazing. There have been loads of ideas generated on how we could increase our income and lots of offers of help. We now have a group who are going to paint the school corridor in the summer (look out for further details in newsletters) as well as a directory of skills parents/carers are able to share. It is very heartening to know that out of a really difficult budget situation something unique, positive and special can emerge from our community.

Southeast YHA visits

Year 5 pupils stayed overnight at the Youth Hostel in Southeast last term. Although there wasn't a lot of sleep for some of the children and teachers (!) they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and particularly enjoyed the wonderful meals at the Youth Hostel! Once again, the polite behaviour and positive attitudes of the children were noted by the YHA staff and members of the public. Many thanks to the Friends of South Malling for supporting the trips and making them more affordable for parents.

Grandparents Tea Parties

Our Grandparent (and relative) Tea Parties were as popular as ever again this year. Both the Key Stage 1 and 2 sittings were packed and the children really enjoyed having the chance to show their Grandparents their work and then sing to them and recite some of our poems. It was lovely to have such enthusiastic audience participation and appreciation!

National Curriculum Tests (SATs)

Well done to the Purple Polar Bears for their positive attitude and Growth Mindset during their test week earlier in May. The children had been very well prepared for the tests by the Year 6 staff team and gave each paper their very best shot. They started with a grammar, punctuation and then spelling paper on Monday, a reading comprehension paper on Tuesday, a maths arithmetic and then reasoning paper on Wednesday and finished with a maths reasoning and problem solving on Thursday. Quite a week! They now have to complete the teacher assessed writing element before the end of June. They have all been reaching for the stars and have been truly impressive!

We receive the initial results for Year 6 on July 9th and these will be included in the reports to parents.

Year 2 have also been working steadily through their ‘quizzes’ and challenges again showing determination and a fantastic attitude to the learning.

Year 1 will take their phonics screening check during the week beginning 10th June.

Looking Forward: Term 6 Events

We do hope many relatives will be able to join us and enjoy the chance to spend time in our school.

What’s on this term?

Our school Learning Journey — ‘**Wonderful World**’- is a geography inspired multi-cultural theme focusing on our world. We will end the topic with our Celebration event for parents and carers.

- Lilac Lambs: Animals around the World
- Red Rabbits: Down Under: Rainbow Fish and the Great Barrier Reef
- Gold Gibbons: Hot and Cold
- Turquoise Tigers and Turquoise Toucans: Where would you prefer to live- England or India?
- Fuchsia Flamingoes : Extreme Earth: What lies within a Volcano?
- Orange Otters: Ancient Greeks: Can you run a marathon like Phedippedes?
- Emerald Eagles: How do other people live? Life in Brazil
- Purple Polar Bears: Raging River and the Wild, Wild West

Our assembly theme this term will be exploring the value of **Equality** and the character strength of **Reflection**. We will be discussing the importance of being able to change if something isn’t working well and being able to be proud of what has gone well.

Our Foundation Governor (Judy Yeomans) writes:

‘As a church school South Malling offers opportunities for everyone who comes into the school to explore the Christian faith. One way in which we do this is through the teaching of values which go hand-in-hand with the development of character strengths.

Our Christian value for this term 6 is Equality. Many will have heard of the Golden Rule; “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”; a universal spiritual principle which is expressed in different ways by different faith groups. It appears to be a concept that almost no religion misses, although it is often associated with Christian ethics’.

Leaver’s events We will be sorry to say goodbye to our Year 6’s at the end of term and wish them all the best in their next phase of education. We will be celebrating their transition

to secondary school with a variety of events. These include:

- Residential Trip to Bowles: a 2 night stay at the outdoor adventure site undertaking all sorts of activities including skiing and rock climbing.
- For the Moving On Parade this year, the theme for the procession is "Once upon a Moving on..." inspired by well-loved children's books, voted for by children, teachers, parents and members of the Patina committee. Our Year 6's have been given the book 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' to base their models on. Siblings of Year 6 children are welcome to go and watch the parade with their parents/carers.
- The Year 6 theatrical and musical talent will once again be showcased in our end of year production: Toy Story (year) 6. Leaver's assembly: time to get your tissues ready as we say a fond farewell to the children

Other events in brief:

Wear It Wild Day!

Inspired by research carried out by some of our Year 6s into protecting endangered tigers, on **Friday June 14th**, South Malling will be taking part in WWF's Wear It Wild to raise money for wildlife foundations **WWF** and **Born Free**. Pupils can Wear It Wild in any way they like, from penguin print tops, parrot wings or tiger-stripe ties, with a **donation of £1**. In workplaces, schools and homes across the country, people will be donning an item of wildlife-inspired clothing, raising money to help protect our incredible world.

'Our world is under threat like never before. Since 1970, our global wildlife populations have declined by more than half. Nature provides our life-support system. We cannot survive without it. Together, we can save our world, and help nature and people thrive for future generations.' WWF

South Malling will be donating all money raised to WWF and Born Free www.wwf.org.uk/wear-it-wild www.bornfree.org.uk

Science Fair

On Friday the 14th June at 14:30, South Malling is putting on a 'Science fair' for all parents and carers to enjoy. The children will be showcasing some exciting outcomes from their latest science learning journey. From the journey of blood through the body, to the journey of water in a water cycle. There will be models and experiments on show as well as young scientists to explain the work. You are invited to your child's classroom and then to the main school hall where a range of exciting science awaits.

Sports Day: all the children in KS2 are mixed across the school into teams (red, blue, yellow, green). Last year the Green team won the event (just). Who will it be in 2019? Come and join us for this exciting, nail biting and fun event on Tuesday 25th June (weather permitting).

Phonics Test: Year 1 children will undertake a national test of their Phonic skills this term during the week beginning 10th June. They will be asked to read 20 unknown words and 20 nonsense words using their phonic skills.

Summer Concert: The annual music concert will take place on Thursday 13th June from 6:00-7:00pm. The concert will once again be held in the school hall. We are looking forward to hearing a variety of musicians from Key Stage Two including the violin and cello ensembles and the choir.

Reports to Parents

The teachers are busy writing the end of year reports for parents. Once they have been completed, read and commented on by Mrs O'Donoghue and Miss Schulte and the children have added a beautiful front cover they will be ready to send out to parents. We are hoping to do this on Monday 8th July. We will also include details of their next classteacher in the report letter and an acknowledgement and comment slip which we would be grateful if you could complete and return to the classteacher

Moving Up and Meet the Teacher

The children will spend the afternoon with their new teacher at the end of term and then parents are invited to join them in the new classroom at 2.45 pm so they can also meet the new teacher and find out what life will be like in the new class in September (see dates in diary section).

Celebration Event:

As part of our 'Our World' project this term we will be celebrating different traditions and cultures from around the world with music, song and dance on the field. We hope parents/ carers will join us with a picnic. The Friends will be running a bar on the night.

New to Nursery Meeting

We invite all of the parents who have got children staying on with us in September and any new parents of children joining us in the new academic year to our New to Nursery Meeting. This is a new meeting which hopefully will highlight the aims of nursery. We will share what and how we teach the children and what and how they will be learning throughout the year. Please do come along on Friday 21st June at 4pm.

Reminders and important info:

Summer uniform and sun protection

Now that the weather has really warmed up the children will get a chance to wear our summer uniform. Please see the prospectus on the school's website if you are unsure what the uniform includes.

N.B ONLY white, black or purple sandals, canvas shoes or smart white trainers will be accepted as the *summer* school uniform footwear. Crocs, jelly shoes, sparkly sandals or shoes with 'charms' are not part of the school summer uniform. In winter the school footwear is black school shoes only.



In order to protect your child from the sun's harmful rays we encourage all children to bring in labelled sun lotion (not spray) and a sun hat (preferably one that also protects the back of their necks). Staff do not apply the sunscreen for the children but they do encourage and support them, particularly in the youngest year groups. It is also really important that the children drink enough water when the weather is warmer. Please make sure your child has a full bottle of fresh water with them each day. Juice is dehydrating and is only permitted at lunchtime, not in class.

Friends News

Fun Run: Thank you to all the children who participated in the Fun Run on the last day of term. We hope you all enjoyed supporting your school and getting some exercise too! Please remember to bring in your forms and sponsorship money by Friday, 7 June.

Non-uniform day: Friday, 29 June is a non-uniform day. Children can wear their favourite summer clothes and bring in a donation for the Summer Fete. We need bottles for the tombola stall, prizes for the raffle and auction, and toys for the prize stall. Thank you for your contributions!

Summer Fete: The South Malling School Summer Fete is taking place on Saturday, 6 July from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. To make this a great day for all, we need as many helpers as we can get! Please let us know if you can help on the day. We need volunteers to run games, stalls, BBQ, bar, crafts, help with set up and clear up... We're always looking for new ideas for fun, if you have any please do share them with us. Please talk to your class rep or email southmallingschoolfriends@gmail.com.

Outdoor Project Update

Tesco Bags of Help Blue Token scheme has helped to build this!!!



It's all taking shape for our 'Space to Learn, Space to grow' area at South Malling. During term 5, Brett and Mark from **Solseed Landscapes**, worked hard to prepare the frame for the outdoor classroom and on Saturday 1st of June they were joined by their friends and some of our parents to help erect the main structure. A combination of expert craftsmanship, sheer muscle power and team work meant that the frame was up in just under an hour!! The next step is to add the canvas, which will be made to order by sail makers in Kent.

Meanwhile the raised beds have a wide selection of plants growing in them; mixed oriental salad leaves, pumpkins, strawberries (very popular with the birds!) dwarf runner and French beans and a much-loved favourite, sweet peas. One of the beds is still empty and we are looking for donations of herb plants, preferably not too large and in particularly lavender, rosemary, thyme, parsley, chives and sage. Also, happy to accept any donations of other vegetable or flower seedlings or small plants.

A huge thank you once again to Tesco's and Southover Manor Trust for their very generous funding and to everyone involved in making this possible.



School Games Mark

We are delighted to announce that South Malling Primary and Nursery School have achieved the School Games Mark Silver Award for the 2018/19 academic year. This is a significant improvement on our Bronze award for 2017/18. The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Our sporting achievements this year include:

- 3rd place in the Year 5/6 Lewes & Ringmer Swimming Gala
- Semi-Final place in the Mini Netball League
- Runners up in the Year 4 Basketball Festival
- Runners up in the Year 4 Football Festival

With nearly a 50% increase on last year, we had a total of 155 entries by KS2 pupils representing South Malling and competing in local inter-school competitions. We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport. We are now hoping to continue to build on our success and aim for the Gold award next year!



National Online Safety – free resources and training for parents and carers.

The online world is posing an ever-increasing risk to children and it is important that schools, parents and carers work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers and how to act safely when using the internet.

We are therefore delighted to announce that **The Friends of South Malling** have supported us in our mission to become a **National Online Safety Certified School**. The Certified School Community package is very comprehensive and includes regularly updated training for the whole school community including School Leaders, All Staff, Parents, Carers and Governors, in line with DfE statutory requirements.

The training course for parents can be taken **at your own convenience** but we will also be holding some **workshop sessions in the new year** in school where the training can be completed as a group. The training for parents covers:

- Information about online dangers and the newest platforms
- What online risks to look out for and how to protect your child

Please find below the URL you need to visit to register your account You will need to complete your details and select “I am a: Parent/Carer” from the dropdown:

<https://lms.nationalonlinesafety.com/school/SouthMalling>

Once you have registered, you will be able to access the “Online Safety for Parents and Carers’ course and National Online Safety’s Resources (which includes 50+ online platform guides on the latest social media channels and games). This aims to help empower parents with the knowledge to protect their children from the dangers of the internet.

If you have any questions, or trouble accessing the course please contact support@nationalonlinesafety.com

Dates for your diary: Please check these dates as some may have changed since the last newsletter.

June

3rd- INSET day, no children in school

4th-return to school for children

5th– 7th Bowles residential trip -Year 6

12th- Class photos

13th– Music concert

14th- Wear It Wild dress up day

20th- 2.30 pm Parent's Forum

21st- New to Nursery meeting 4.00 pm.

25th - Sports Day 9.30 for Key Stage 1 and 1.45 for Key Stage 2

26th - Reserve Sports Day

29th-non uniform day; children to bring in fete items

July

2nd-New Parents evening

5th- Patina Moving On Parade

6th-Summer fete

8th - Reports out

11th- Dance Festival at Roedean School

15th- Moving Up and Meet the Teacher (2.45pm) for current Year 3, 4 and 5 children

16th- Moving Up and Meet the Teacher (2.45pm) for current Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children

18th- Year 6 Performances @ 2.15 and 6.00 pm.

22nd -Celebration event

23rd -Year 6 Leavers Assembly+ Tea at 2.15 pm.

23rd -last day for children before summer holiday

September

Return to school Thursday 5th September

Inset planned for November 6th