

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 in the next month 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 and structure for next year. We are delighted that all our teaching staff will be staying with us for the next school year. The most important part of our development plans for 2018-2019 continues to be the learning, progress and enjoyment of our children as well as our ambition to Reach for the Stars.

This is the last term for our Year 6 Purple Polar Bears and Purple Penguins. 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

Thought for the term

By Revd Jules Middleton (Curate at Trinity and Governor at South Malling School)

Prayer

I wonder what 'prayer' means to you? At school we often use the prayer of St Richard which includes the words: 'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly' or you might know the Lord's Prayer too?

But prayer can be lots of different things, it can be happy or sad, long or short, speaking or in silence, sitting still or I even like to pray when I go running!

Prayer can help us in lots of ways too, if we are sad about something, we can ask God to be with us and to comfort us. If we are happy we can thank him, if we are a bit worried about something at school we can ask him to help us feel peaceful about it. You can talk to God whenever you like, about whatever you like, he's always listening.

In a few weeks' time we'll be hosting a Prayer Space here at school where everyone will get a chance to spend some time thinking about prayer. Some of you will remember the one we did last year, but if you've not been to a prayer space before we are sure you are going to enjoy it. There are lots of different activities to do, that help you to think about prayer in different ways. You can pray with words, by drawing or writing, by looking at bubbles or asking big questions and lots more! We hope you enjoy it.

Looking Back: Term 5 Highlights

Attendance and Punctuality in Term 5

Well done to the Lemon Lions for the best attendance last term. They were at school for 97.6% of the term.

We have also been focussing on punctuality and have awarded the best punctuality title to Purple Penguins class for Term 5

Getting to school on time is really important.

Knights and Dames of the Week

Well done to Maddie, Noah, Charlotte and Tom (Year 6), Sylvan (Year 5) and Abigail (Year 3) for being awarded the supreme accolade of Knight or Dame of the Week in term 5. The focus was on all our character strengths and particularly Expertise. All these children were seen by the staff to have fully demonstrated the strengths, gone beyond thinking about themselves and taken responsibility in the wider school and acted as a role model to others.

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.

Sussex New Opera and South Malling

Last term, some of our children in Year 3 were treated to a wonderful workshop from the Sussex New Opera. They were introduced to opera and invited to participate in actions and singing. The event was clearly memorable as the children could be heard singing the tunes down the corridor afterwards!

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. We noticed the Beatles songs went down particularly well this year and it was lovely to have such enthusiastic audience participation!

National Curriculum Tests (SATs)

Well done to the Purple Penguins and 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 calculations 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 10th and these will be included in the reports to parents.

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

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.

- Red Rabbits: Down Under: Rainbow Fish and the Great Barrier Reef
- Gold Giraffes and Gold Gibbons: Hot and Cold
- Turquoise Tigers: Where would you prefer to live- England or India?
- Lemon Lions: Extreme Earth: France
- Orange Otters: Ancient Greeks: Can you run a marathon like Phedippedes?
- Emerald Elephants: Rights for the Rainforest:
- Purple Polar Bears and Penguins: Raging River and the Wild, Wild West

Our assembly theme this term will be exploring 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.

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.
- Moving On Parade: this year's theme for the procession through Lewes is 'Spread Your Wings and Fly'. and our Year 6's have chosen to go as sci-fi based characters. Siblings of Year 6 children are welcome to go and watch the parade with their parents/carers.
- An end of year production: the Year 6 theatrical and musical talent will once again be showcased in The Sound of South Malling!
- Leaver's assembly: time to get your tissues ready as we say a fond farewell to the children

Other events in brief:

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 2018? Come and join us for this exciting, nail biting and fun event on Tuesday 26th June (weather permitting).

Phonics Test: Year 1 children will undertake a national test of their Phonic skills this term during the week beginning 11th 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 14th June from 6:00-7:00pm. This year the concert will 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.

Trench Brothers Project: The Otters have had a thrilling start to the Trench Brothers project which looks into the contribution of ethnic minority soldiers in World War One. The only school in Lewes to be involved in the project, this term we had artefacts handling and immersive theatre workshops. In Term Six, the children will work on art tasks and start to learn the songs ready for their final performance at The Dome, Brighton in October. More details on the project can be found here: <http://www.hmdt.org.uk/hmdtmusic/trenchbrothers/>

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 9th 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.

Diversity Lewes Event:

In Term Six, we are looking forward to welcome Tony Kalume from the local organisation, 'Diversity Lewes', to celebrate diversity within our school community and local area. There will be an exhibition in the Hall giving information about a variety of people in our locality which parents will also be able to come in and view. <http://www.diversitylewes.org.uk/index.html>

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 Tuesday 26th June at 4pm.

Reminders and important info:

GDPR

Like all organisations that keep or process personal data, we have been updating our systems and policies to take account of the new general data protection regulation (GDPR); which applies from the end of May 2018. The regulation gives more control to individuals over their personal information. It also places far more responsibility on organisations that collect and hold personal information to keep that information safe and secure.

As a result of the regulation we have:

- updated our Data Protection policy.
- conducted an audit to make sure we are only holding information that is relevant for South Malling children and the safety of the entire school community.
- issued a new privacy notice that explains how we collect, process and store personal data.
- improved our technology so that staff can encrypt (conceal by turning in to code) any data they may take off the premises.
- had staff training on keeping information safe and on the Data Protection Regulation.

There are more details in the Data Protection policy which makes clear the circumstances under which any personal data can be shared outside the school. For example, we will need explicit consent from you if we want to use your child's photo in published material like brochures or funding applications. The policy also outlines the new rights individuals have to see information we hold about themselves and their child and describes how you can go about getting this information.

We will regularly update parents on any information relating to the regulation in newsletters. If after reading the new policies you have any questions or want more information, please contact the school office.

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.

Assemblies for Parents and Carers

This term we are looking forward to welcoming the parents and carers of the Emerald Elephants (8th June), Purple Penguins (15th June), Purple Polar Bears (22nd June), Lemon Lions (29th June) and Orange Otters (6th July) to our Friday Stars celebration assembly.

Contact Details:

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

June

4th- INSET day, no children in school

5th-return to school for children

6th– 8th Bowles residential trip -Year 6

11th– Friends committee meeting

Week beginning 11th- Year 1 Phonics assessment

13th - Class photos

13th- Science Fair and Open Afternoon 2.45 pm.

14th– Music concert

Week beginning 18th- Prayer Space in school

22nd- Parent's Forum at 2.30 pm.

26th - Sports Day

26th- New to Nursery evening

27th - Reserve Sports Day

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

July

3rd-New Parents evening

6th- Moving On Parade

7th-Summer fete

9th - Reports out (Year 6 will be out on Friday 13th)

12th- Year 6 Performances @ 2.15 and 6.00 pm.

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

17th- Moving Up and Meet the Teacher (2.45pm) for current Year 3, 4 and 5 children

19th-Celebration event

20th - Year 6 Leavers Assembly+ Tea

20th last day for children before summer holiday

September

Wednesday 5th – first day back for the children