



WELCOME TO TERM 3

Happy New Year!

Welcome back and a happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful holiday, and that Father Christmas found his way to you all!

As we start 2018 lots of us will, I'm sure, be making New Year resolutions many of which will centre around improving ourselves, our health and our lifestyles. At South Malling we are no exception! You may be aware that in September each state school received a pot of funding to promote Healthy Lifestyles in children. This has been given on the back of Government concern about increasing rates of childhood obesity and associated illnesses, concern about young people's mental health as well as recognition that children are generally less active now than in the past.

We have got lots of exciting ideas on how we will be using this money to support our children in learning about healthy lifestyles which include developing and increasing the amount of sport and PE provision in school, workshops about healthy eating choices for children and their parents, opening a healthy tuck shop for KS2 children at playtimes and the development of our curriculum to ensure healthy lifestyle choices are given a high profile.

We will be kicking off our Healthy Schools initiative during the week beginning the 29th January. Details of the activities and invitations for parents to join us will be in forthcoming class newsletters. If you would like to know more about this initiative or have any concerns please come and speak to us. With best wishes for a healthy and active 2018!



Fund raising news

This year we raised a record amount of money for Children in Need. Thank you to all of you who supported the event and helped us make a massive £1,200. The children did a fantastic job with all their inventive sales ideas and should be very proud of themselves.

School Admissions

Don't forget that the closing date for applications for children aged 4 who want to start school next September is Monday 15th January 2018. Any late applications are only considered at a later date and so may not get their school of choice.

If you need any help completing the form electronically please see Sara in the office.

LOOKING BACK AT THE EVENTS OF TERM 2

All present and on time!

We are delighted that 8 out of our 9 classes achieved an attendance rate of 96% or more between September and Christmas—what a result! The prize for the best attendance goes to the Gold Giraffe and Purple Polar Bear classes who both managed 97%. Well done!

Children who arrive late for school often miss important information, the chance to socialise with friends and settle in to the school day so we want to encourage all children to arrive on time. Last term we were really pleased that there were fewer children than ever who were late for school. Great news! We hope that by the end of 2018 **all** our children will be at school to enjoy the start of the day.

South Malling's Got Talent

On the last day of term we were treated to our annual Talent Show. The acts wowed us all and showed us what a talented bunch of children we have at South Malling. The children also showed great support and encouragement for each other. Congratulations go to all the entrants and to our 2017 winners: the Dance Mash-Up from the Tigers, Pois routine from Lemon Lions, the Elephant Circus from the Elephants and the Believers from the Penguins. Once again the staff also entertained the children during the show with their South Malling version of 'Elf Yourself'!



Memories of a Musical Malling!

Last term was jam-packed with music and drama for all the children across the school. Once again, the children from the Nursery joined the Reception classes to perform their own Nativity story. A group of children from the Lemon Lions supported them by narrating and singing clearly and confidently and the Red Rabbits and Nursery children sang beautifully and performed actions to the songs. The Gold Giraffes, Gold Gibbons and Turquoise Tigers also took to the stage with a heart-warming performance of 'Hey Ewe!'. The Gold Giraffes and Gibbons sparkled beautifully as angels and shepherds; and the Tigers acted out their speaking roles with great expression. Ava from the Tigers showed real courage and talent in taking on the lead role of the lost sheep.

Finally, the children in Years Three to Six charmed the audience with their performance of various carols and Christmas songs at the Key Stage Two Carol Concert which included Stanley from the Orange Otters leading us with the signing of We Wish You a Merry Christmas. Well done to everyone for all their hard work and a BIG thank you to all the staff who helped to make this Christmas such a special, and musical, one. We would particularly like to thank Miss Matthews for all her musical support as without her this year, the shows would not have gone on!



LOOKING FORWARDS TO TERM 3

Sports Development Officer

As part of our Healthy Schools initiative we have created a new post: Sports Development Officer. We are delighted that Rachael Burgess has been appointed to the role. Many of you already know Rachael from her work in school as a Teaching assistant (Year 4) and some of you will have met her on the sports field as she has very successfully been coaching the netball team and supporting the football teams as well as leading on all the tournaments and leagues we enter.

In the role of Sports Development Officer Rachael will be making sure that children have the chance to take part in sport and that all

sections of the community are aware of available activities and where they can go to get involved.

She will distribute information and organise sport-related projects, classes, programmes, coaching, club development and training. She will also target those who want to take part for fun, as well as those who are interested in competing at all levels, from local to national and international.

The central aim is to increase participation in sport of all kinds.

Rachael will still be working with the Orange Otters in the morning and will then work on Sport and PE development in the afternoons.

Nursery News!

From January 2018 we are delighted that the Nursery will be able to take 'Rising 3 year olds'. Children whose 3rd birthday is before April can now start in January. [Please contact the office for details.](#)



Come to school to watch a maths lesson !

Parents / carers are invited to come and watch their child in a maths lesson on Wednesday 24th January @ 9.00 am. for Years 1, 2 and 3 and Wednesday 31st January @ 9.00 am. for Years 4, 5 and 6. We hope you will enjoy finding out about how we teach maths and what your child learns in a maths lesson.

What's on this term?

Our school Learning Journey — 'The Apprentice' / 'Curious Creations' — is an enterprise theme focusing on maths, design technology and financial capability. We will end the topic with an Enterprise Open Afternoons (see individual class newsletters for dates and times) where parents can come and buy some of the products and share their children's work.

Red Rabbits: **What's Your Job?**

Gold Giraffes and Gibbons: **Home Sweet Home** (designing a shoe box house and wallpaper)

Turquoise Tigers: **The Little Red Hen's Cafe** (making and selling bread)

Lemon Lions : **The Iron Man** (a performance of the story by Ted Hughes)

Orange Otters : **Where will your Wardrobe Take You?** (a performance of the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe)

Emerald Elephants : **A Midsummer's Nights Dream** (Puppet making and performance)

Purple Polar Bears and Penguins: **Golden Ages and Golden Traders** (making and selling a computer game).

Our **assembly themes** this term continue to be on our values and our character strengths. Our focus in Term 3 is on Grit and Perseverance. We will be looking at these in a variety of ways including through the lives of significant people in history and sport.

Admin information and reminders:

Parking Problems

During the last term the school has received several complaints about the parking situation from other parents, local residents and passers– by.

The parking situation around the school is, like in so many other urban schools, extremely challenging. This has got worse recently by the increase in the numbers of employees at the Police Headquarters on Church Lane. I have had several conversations with local councillors to try and improve the situation but do not, so far, have a way forwards.

However, it now appears that a few of our parents are parking in ways that could potentially endanger children's lives (e.g. too close to the corner of a road) and that lacks consideration for our neighbours (e.g. on grass verges, blocking front entrances).

Whilst we understand the frustrations that parking can cause **please, please** make sure you park safely and with respect for all others using the roadways.



A Healthy New Year

We encourage all children to bring in a healthy packed lunch. Our food guidelines aim to encourage healthier eating habits. As a school we have a duty to educate children into healthy eating habits.

Foods which need to be eaten in moderation

Only **ONE** out of the following on any day please.

- **Bag of crisps**
- **Chocolate biscuit/ small packs of biscuits**
- **Cake**
- **Processed food e.g. Pepperami**
- **Food high in fat/ salt content e.g. sausage rolls**

Recently we have noticed several children having more than one of the foods which need to be eaten in moderation. Please could we remind parents, carers and children of our guidelines so that our children can take healthy eating habits with them for the rest of their lives.



Clubs update

All clubs start back in the week beginning 8th January. Please see the website or ask at the office if you would like any information on the clubs available. .



Have you checked if your child could receive additional funding and support

You may be missing out on this important benefit if not. Even if your child doesn't want to eat a school lunch or is in the Infants so doesn't pay for their lunch, the school receives additional funding for any child registered for the Pupil Premium Grant . This money can be used to pay for their lunches (KS2), to support your child with after school clubs, trips out, additional learning support amongst other things. Pop into the office if you think your child might be entitled to this important additional support.

This year we will also be receiving additional funding for children who are, or have been, adopted. If this could apply to your child please let Mrs O'Donoghue know.

DATES

January

2nd - INSET day, no children in school

3rd – return to school after Christmas holiday

5th– Prospective parent visit 10.00 am.

15th- Friends committee meeting

23rd - Years 1,2,3: Come and watch a maths lesson in your child's class

29th– 2nd– Healthy Schools initiative

31st– Years 4,5,6 Come and watch a lesson in your child's class

February

8th-Year 4 show @2.15 pm.

9th - Enterprise Fair: Open afternoon in the classes at 2.45pm. All welcome

9th- last day before half term

9th - cake, book, uniform sale - valentines theme

19th- children return to school after half term

Week beginning 26th– Parent Consultations

March

1st - after school parent consultations (3.30-6.00 pm.)

2nd - World Book Day (dress up)

9th- Coins along the Corridor (bring in spare coins)

15th- Year 3 performance: the Iron Man @9.30 am.

23rd - Comic Relief Day

28th– Year 5 show

29th - Easter Service in Church for KS2 @ 9.45 am.

29th- Easter cake competition

29th– last day before Easter holidays

April

16th - return to school after Easter holiday

23rd– Friends committee meeting

27th- Grandparents tea party (10am. KS1 and 2.00pm. KS2)

Contact Details:

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May

3rd/4th- Year 5 trip to Southeast

Tbc- Phil the Bag (donations of unwanted clothes)

7th - Bank Holiday

Week beginning 14th Year 6 SATs

25th—Fun Run

25th - Last day before half term holiday

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

13th– Class photos

14th– Music concert

26th - Sports Day

27th - Reserve Sports Day

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

July

3rd-New Parents evening

7th-Summer fete

9th - Reports out

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

19th-Celebration event

20th - Year 6 Leavers Assembly+ Tea

20th - last day for children before summer holiday