

WELCOME TO TERM 1



Welcome Back!

I hope you all had a great summer holidays. We ended last year on a real high following our positive inspection report from the Diocese and we're now looking forward to an exciting new school year. It is always wonderful to anticipate all the great achievements and changes every child at South Malling will experience during the coming year. The teachers and support staff have been very busy getting ready; planning exciting lessons, creating interesting and helpful displays, labelling books, trays and resources, finding books to read and materials to share with the children, as well as taking the time to talk to each other about excellent teaching and learning. We had many, many successes to be proud of last year including our positive church inspection report, test scores that were above national averages, fantastic music and drama performances, some great sporting and Kit Car achievements and we were winners in the Beat the Street competition!

Our ambitions haven't tailed off for 2017-18, and this year we are looking forward to working with you and the children to create another great year at South Malling School as we all Reach for the Stars!

Quotes from our recent church inspection report (June 2017)

The school has a strong sense of community feeling and home-school partnerships are strong.

High expectations and aspirations set by all staff impact on pupils' positive attitudes to learning, good standards of attainment, improved attendance and exemplary behaviour. Discrimination is not tolerated

'The high quality inclusive learning provision, pastoral support and established parental partnerships nurtures pupils' feelings of happiness, care and well-being.'

In this issue:

This issue is full of important information about the school year ahead. Please make sure you know what is coming up and who you can go to for help if needed.

Staffing news for 2017-18

CLASS	TEACHER	COVER for planning, preparation and assessment	TA SUPPORT	ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
Nursery	Mrs C Hann	Rachel Brown	Jo Moorey Rachel Brown	Louise Redshaw
YR Red Rabbits	Mrs L Spall	Lisa Ashwood	Lisa Ashwood	Cindy Smith Lynette Kemp
Y1 Gold Gibbons	Miss G Hart	Miss C Harrison/ Miss K O'Neill	Lisa Rusby	Sam Wheatley
Y1 Gold Giraffes	Mrs N Geering	Miss C Harrison/ Miss K O'Neill	Judith Cable Sheena Eade	Sam Wheatley
Y2 Turquoise Tigers	Mr A Moylett	Miss C Harrison/ Miss K O'Neill	Mrs G Fuller	Helena Powell
Y3 Lemon Lions	Mrs V Burch Mrs M Hunt	Miss C Harrison/ Miss K O'Neill	Sue Bowler	Mrs Baker
Y4 Orange Otters	Mr C Wooller	Miss C Harrison/ Miss K O'Neill	Rachael Burgess	Sophie Bomansaan
Y5 Emerald Elephants	Mrs M Harley / Miss K O'Neill	Miss C Harrison/ Mrs Hunt	Mrs S Whiting	
Y6 Purple Penguins	Miss K Matthews	Miss K O'Neill/ Mrs Hunt	Mrs S Swan	Mr J Beattie
Y6 Purple Polar Bears	Miss A Straker	Miss O'Neill/ Miss Schulte	Vicky Newth	Mr J Beattie
Additional teachers/ support staff	Ms A Schulte (Deputy Headteacher+ Inclusion Manag- er)	Mrs J Anderson (SENCO)		Sarah Burnard- Learning Mentor Janet Wilde- Play Therapist
Midday (lunch) supervi- sors	Lisa Rusby, Sam Wheatley, Nicki Barr, Susie Swan, Rachael Burgess, Lynette Kemp & Helena Powell			
Premises	Phil Vinall			
Office team	Sue Warren- Business Manager, First Aid lead Sara Head- Secretary, Extended Schools and Sports Coordinator Anne Baker- admin support			

Staffing for 2017-18

Who is responsible for what in our school?

Different teachers are responsible for the development of different subjects and areas of the curriculum. If you have any questions about a subject area please feel free to consult the relevant teacher.

Mrs O'Donoghue- Headteacher- School Improvement, Teaching and Learning, Curriculum, Standards and Achievement, Pupil and Staff care, guidance and welfare including behaviour, attendance, safeguarding, health and safety, budget and leadership.

Ms Schulte- Deputy Headteacher: Inclusion Manager, Leader of Computing, Teaching Assistant leader Pupil and Staff care, guidance and welfare including behaviour, safeguarding,

Mr Moylett- Key Stage 1 leader, Maths leader, Assessment leader

Mrs Geering- English leader

Mrs Spall- Early Years leader

Miss Harrison-Religious and Spiritual Education , Collective Worship

Mrs Harley- Design Technology, Art and Display

Miss Straker – Leader of Learning ,

Mr Wooller- Key Stage 2 leader, Science, Assessment leader

Mrs Burch- Personal, Social, Health, Emotional education + anti-bullying, school council, British Values

Mrs Hunt-Outdoor learning

Miss O'Neill- Music , Modern Foreign Languages

Miss Hart – Humanities, Charities and International links

Mrs Anderson- Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO): support for children with special educational needs

Mrs Janet Wilde- Play Therapist and Behaviour support

Mrs Warren- Health and Safety, Premises, First Aid, Medicines

Sara Head- Attendance, Clubs, Sports administration

Rachael Burgess- PE and Sports development

Contacting us

If you have a question, information or concern about your child at school please see the class teacher in the first instance. If the matter is not resolved or you have further concern please see a member of the senior leadership team (Mr Moylett– Key Stage 1, Mr Wooller– Key Stage 2, Miss Schulte– Deputy/ Inclusion, Mrs O'Donoghue– Headteacher). You can contact the school office and Sara will make an appointment for you.



Inclusion Team: If your child has a special educational need or disability, you may want to contact the Inclusion Team. The team is made up of: Annie Schulte (Inclusion Manager), Josie Anderson (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), Janet Wilde (Play Therapist), Anna Straker (Star Learners leader). You can contact us on 01273 473 016, option 2, or pop into the back office, opposite the Lemon Lions classroom. We hold a termly forum for parents of children who have a Special Need or Disability (SEND), look out for the dates in the newsletters.

Safeguarding Leads: The designated safeguarding leaders are Mrs O'Donoghue, Miss Schulte and Mr Moylett. Please contact them if you have a concern about a child's well being.

What's been happening around the school during the holidays?

- ◆ New fire doors in the main corridor
- ◆ Updated tissue and towel dispensers in all toilets
- ◆ A new, covered and extended bike rack
- ◆ New furniture for Reception class
- ◆ Refurbishment of Reception class (Robins) to become a Year 1 class, including re-fencing of outdoor area.
- ◆ New interactive whiteboards for Year 4 and Year 5

Coming up in 2017-18

Some of our priorities for 2017-18

- ◆ To make sure that most children reach the expected standard for their year group (mastery learning)
- ◆ To make sure that the children leaving our Nursery have achieved age related expectations
- ◆ To introduce character strengths (Professionalism, Grit, Spark, Humanity, Eloquence, Expertise, Reflection) to support learning behaviours
- ◆ To help children understand how to stay physically healthy

Homework : Following positive feedback after the introduction of our new homework policy last year we will continue with the same expectations this year. Your child's class teacher will clarify the expectations re homework in their newsletter. **ALL** children are expected to **read every day**, learn spellings and times tables. It really does make a difference to their learning. Our website also provides further information on how you can support your child, but if you have any concerns please come and see your child's class teacher.

Meet the Teacher: Each class will have their own Meet the Teacher in Term 1 that will include a coffee morning style chat with the classteacher and Mrs O'Donoghue. Please see class newsletters for details.

Reading: Your child will be bringing home 2 books each night. One will be carefully chosen to meet their reading needs and the other will be a free choice. Please ensure both books are returned **EVERY DAY** in a school book bag. Thank you.

Safeguarding

Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. School staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children, to prevent concerns from escalating. Schools and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children.

In all of the work that we do, we believe that the rights, safety and welfare of the children with whom we are involved are paramount. This may mean that we sometimes have to take actions which parents or carers could find difficult. In such cases we will always work to achieve mutual understanding. We will explain our professional and statutory responsibilities and try to give every assurance as to the reasons for our actions. However we must stress that for us, the child's needs must come first.

If you have any concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing please come and discuss them with a member of staff or our designated safeguarding leads: Mrs O'Donoghue, Miss Schulte or Mr Moylett.

This year we have a new online safety policy and will be sharing this with parents later in the term.

If you would like to find out more about our safeguarding and child protection procedures please see the  policy on the website or speak to one of the designated safeguarding leads.

South Malling Character

Strengths

We have identified 7 core character strengths for our school for 2017-18:

Professionalism, Humanity, Spark, Grit, Eloquence, Expertise, Reflection

These strengths will be discussed and celebrated in class and in assemblies and will be used as a focus in displays around the school. Look out for more information in class newsletters.



Important information for Parents for 2017-18:

* **Talking to Us:** If you would like to talk your child's **classteacher** please pop into class before the beginning of the day or phone the office to arrange a mutually convenient time. If you would like to see Mrs O'Donoghue or Ms Schulte please go to the office to arrange a time.

* The Office is staffed between 8.30 am. and 4.30 pm. each day. Outside these hours there will be an answer machine service. If your child requires any medicines whilst in school please see Mrs Warren or Sara for information.



* **Beat the Bell!** The school day starts at 8.55 am. and the gates are opened at 8.45 am. We strongly encourage children to arrive between 8.45 and 8.55 so they can be ready for the start of the day. Children in Years 3-6 can come onto the playground or go to class independently on arrival. Children in Years 1 and 2 can go straight into class and are encouraged to be as independent as possible. The gates are closed at 8.55 and anyone who is late needs to go to the office to be registered. It makes a real difference to the children if they arrive on time as they can take part in the class arrangements for the day and will know what to expect during the day.

* The school day ends at 3.15 pm. Children in Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3 are delivered to their parents/carers. Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 are dismissed from the classroom. If you need an alternative arrangement for your child please see your child's classteacher.



* **Read All About It!** For lots more information (including our dates, curriculum, uniform and policies) don't forget to check the school website every Friday evening for all newsletters and updates. If you would prefer to receive the newsletters in paper form please let the office know.

* **To authorise or not to authorise?** Guidance on school attendance states that 'headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances'. If your child requires time off school for any reason please complete an 'withdrawal from learning' request form from the office. Medical and dental appointments are best made outside school hours where possible.



* **Lunches** cost £2.10p (for Years 3-6) and **ALL** payment is by ParentPay. Lunches cannot be provided without payment. Please see the Office if you would like more information.

* **Staying Healthy!** Our children should only bring a **healthy** snack to school for play-time and they should only have **water** in their drinking bottles (not juice) in class. This is important for their physical well-being and it helps them to learn about how to keep themselves healthy. Please see our guidelines on the website or ask at the Office if you're unsure what can/can't be included.



* **Clubs:** A separate newsletter listing all the Clubs on offer is attached. All Clubs will start on the week beginning Monday 11th September

* **Class newsletters will continue to be published every Friday. These are an important source of information about what is happening in your child's class so please make sure you don't miss them!**

DATES

September:

11th– Clubs start (except Choir)
18th– Friends committee meeting
29th – School Council elections
Coffee mornings for each class– see class newsletters

October:

2nd -e-safety week. Parents invited to IT lessons.
4th- Individual photos
8th-Sunday Service at school
9th- Friends AGM
10th& 12th –Reception class coffee morning @9.15 and tea @2.30pm. in Hall
13th-Parent's Forum @ 2.30 pm
13th - Harvest Festival
20th - Disco
Week beginning 16th Parent consultations (see class newsletters for days).
19th - After-school parent consultations Year 1—Year 6
20th - last day before half-term holiday
Monday 30th return to school

November

6th-10th: Nursery parent meetings
Open Afternoons: Class and School museum see individual class newsletters
6th-Friends committee meeting
8th- Nursery coffee morning @9.15 am
10th- Bonfire assembly
13th-17th Anti-Bullying Week
17th- Children in Need Day
23rd – Parent's Forum @ 9.00 am.
24th- non uniform day - children to bring in Christmas hamper items
Prospective parent visits Tues 28th @ 10.00 am. and Weds 29th @ 2.00 pm.

December

4th - INSET day, no children in school
7th-Decoration Day
8th-Christmas Fair
11th- Year R and Nursery Christmas performance @ 9.30 am.
13th &14th-KS1 performances @9.30 am.
15th-Secret Present shop
19th- KS1 Church Service @ 9.45
19th-KS2 Carol Concert @2.15pm. and 3.30 pm
20th - Talent show
20th- last day before Christmas holiday

January

2nd- **INSET day, no children in school**
3rd –children return to school
5th– Prospective parent visit 10.00 am.
8th-12th: BE Week
12th– BE Assembly
15th- Friends committee meeting

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
19th- children return to school after half term
Week beginning 26th– Parent Consultations
26th- Friends committee meeting

March

1st - After-school parent consultations
2nd - World Book Day (dress up)
9th- Coins along the Corridor
15th- Year 3 performance: the Iron Man @9.30 am.
23rd - Comic Relief Day
28th– Year 5 show @2.15pm
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 (am. KS1 and pm. KS2)

May

3rd-4th Year 5 trip to Southeast
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 tbc
11th– Friends committee meeting
14th– Music concert
Class photos tbc
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