

WELCOME TO TERM 4



Once again South Malling was a very busy and productive place last term. Not only did we have our usual Enterprise theme with lots of designing, making and selling of a whole range of interesting products, but we also had a focus on staying healthy and active with our Healthy Week. We have already heard how much the week was enjoyed by the children and have found out that it even changed some of their eating habits (for the better!). Teachers and children are keen to continue with some of the activities so watch out for more running, daily exercises and water drinking this term!

This term promises to be equally busy and it is also the time of year when the staff, governors and children start to discuss what we need to work on for the coming year in preparation for our new budget in April. Hopefully we can also include parents/carers views this year so if there is something in school you think needs to be worked on, please come to our next Parent's Forum and let us know.

Jo O'Donoghue, Headteacher



Our 'Eat Right, Stay Bright' week last term was a huge success! The Chartwell's roadshow in the hall proved to be very popular; we hope you enjoyed it. The children took part in many extra activities during this week, such as running laps on the field and pilates sessions; many classes are now keeping the daily 'wake and shake' sessions to help improve their fitness.

Well done to all the children who entered the poster competition. Our dinner ladies, Glynis and Trish, judged this and found it very difficult as there were so many great entries! In the end they couldn't choose and so we had runners -up as well as winners. Runners up were Lewis (Gold Gibbons) and Alexander (Emerald Elephants). Winners were Keeley (Turquoise Tigers) and Brandon (Purple Polar Bears). Come and look at the display in the hall and the books just inside the school entrance to see all the entries.

Mrs Burch, PSHE Leader

**Thought for the term - a new feature for our Newsletter by Revd Jules Middleton
(Governor and Curate at Trinity)**

I wonder how many of you celebrated Shrove Tuesday (otherwise known as Pancake Day) last week by eating a lot of pancakes?! We certainly had a few in my house and managed to keep most of them off the ceiling too!

You might know that Shrove Tuesday marks the day before we begin a church season called 'Lent'. Sometimes people 'give things up' for Lent but traditionally it is the period of 6 weeks or so before Easter. It's a time when the church encourages people to reflect on their faith and to think about what Jesus did at Easter, preparing themselves for the celebration that is to come. So for years people have 'fasted' during this time (ie: they have given something up) to help them to focus on God more. That's why we have pancakes the day before – it was a way of using up some of the food before the fast began.

These days people take part in Lent in lots of ways, some still fast, some by praying more, others like me, try something new.

What could you do this year to think about Lent? Something we do as a family is to take part in '40 Acts' which is a project that gives you 40 ways to be generous and kind throughout Lent. It's lots of fun and even if you don't do all 40, it can make a real difference to your life, and to others. You can find out more and sign up at 40acts.org.uk



Looking Back: Term 3 Highlights

Attendance and Punctuality in Term 3

Well done to Lemon Lions for the best attendance last term. They were at school for 97.1% of the term.



Knight and Dame of the Week

Congratulations to the following children for being awarded the prestigious Knight or Dame of the Week award last term: Olivia (PPB), Noah (GG), Alice (PPB), Max (PP), Danielle (EE) and Shoma (PP).

Defibrillator News

On Thursday 25th January, the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 attended a special assembly in which we were presented with a defibrillator, kindly donated by the Connor Saunders Foundation. Connor's mum spoke to the children, telling the story of his life and the importance of making good choices and then made the presentation of the defibrillator. The children then, in their classes, attended basic First Aid workshops. We are extremely grateful to Anne-Marie Graham, mother of Ruth Graham (Purple Penguins) and Usain Graham (Red Rabbits) who nominated South Malling School.

The defibrillator is located on the wall in the front entrance and can be used by anyone should the need arise.

After the visit, Connor's mum said,

"I am delighted that South Malling Primary School have been presented with a Defibrillator thanks to my son Connor's foundation. It was an honour to spend time in your school to help make it heart safe and we would like to thank all staff and children for making us feel so welcomed. Special thanks to all staff that helped in making this possible for your school. We hope you never have to use it but should you need to in an emergency it is there to help save a life. Love & Blessings Mrs Saunders, Connor's extremely proud Mum x"

The Connor Saunders Foundation

On April 14th 2012 our son Connor Saunders' life was taken after he was assaulted in Rottingdean Brighton, he was just 19 years of age. Connor loved life and life loved Connor, he made our world a better place. Connor's life was taken by one punch; we urge people to be aware of the danger of a fist. Think before you hit out, use your hands to help others not hurt others. One punch can kill! Every action has a consequence.

We as Connor's Family have set up a charity to keep his memory and legacy alive! The Connor Saunders Foundation (Registered Charity No. 1148677) supports three wonderful causes that are close to Connor's heart. Connor made the selfless decision at the tender age of 16 to become a Organ Donor and because of that he saved 5 lives and helped enhance the life of a 10 month old baby too. Connor was a wonderful kind gentle person who was loved by everyone and didn't have a bad bone in his body - he was one of a kind - the best kind.

Please check out Connor's website www.connors5.com for more info, upcoming fundraising events and how you can help to support his foundation.

Otters Go To Narnia

The Orange Otters dazzled pupils, parents and teachers alike with their very professional performance of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. All of the children delivered their lines clearly and expressively, demonstrating an excellent understanding of the story and the characters. The Otters' gritty, persevering attitude during rehearsals paid off as everyone performed the actions to the songs and sang beautifully, especially the brave Otters who sang in small groups at the beginning of True Colours. A real team effort and a joy to watch!

Looking Forward: Term 4 Events

World Book Day-Week beginning 26th February 2018.

Each year South Malling School celebrates World Book Day. Reading is important all year round but the children really enjoy having a week with some special events to look forward to.

All week Grandparents are invited to come to school daily from 2.50pm to read to children.

Friday 2nd March 2018 - special events.

Children are invited to dress as their favourite book character and to also bring the book that the character comes from.

'Drop Everything and Read' – During the day a bell will ring and everyone will stop and read. Also it would be great if you could email pictures to the school office when you have 'Caught Your Child Reading' in unusual places! (office@southmalling.e-sussex.sch.uk for the attention of Nicola Geering). We can share these at a whole school assembly.

A letter will be sent home separately giving fuller details about these events.



Friends Events

Coins along the Corridor



On **Friday, 9th March**, is the popular Coins along the Corridor. Children are encouraged to bring in coins (1p, 2p, 5p, etc) to school. They'll be lining them up along the corridor to see if there are enough to reach all the way to the year 6 classroom. Nursery will be doing their own challenge. All coins will be donated to the

Friends.

The Great Easter Bake Off

On **Thursday, 29 March**, is the Great Easter Bake Off! Bring in a cake or cupcakes with an Easter or Spring theme. Entries from KS1 (reception – Y2) and KS2 (Y3 – Y6) will be judged separately and a cake and cupcake winner will be selected for each group (There will be 4 winners). Please note that cakes will be judged only on their appearance (not their taste). Winners will be announced during assembly.



Friends Committee Meeting - The next Friends Committee will be held on **Monday, 26 February** at 7:30pm at the Dorset Arms. Please join us. All are welcome!

FUNDS RAISED

In December we raised £2,200 with the Christmas Fair, Secret Present Shop and the Christmas Card orders! Thank you to everyone who supported our events.

What's on this term?

Our school Learning Journey this term is 'Bookworms' where the focus is English. Our paired classes will be reading to each other and sharing their writing.

- Red Rabbits: If You Go Down to the Woods Today (Goldilocks & the 3 Bears)
- Gold Gibbons and Gold Giraffes: I'm the King of the Castle (Jack and the Beanstalk)
- Turquoise Tigers: Creating an information book on butterflies
- Lemon Lions: The Iron Man (Performance)
- Orange Otters: This little Otter went to Market: Can you cook a savoury treat to sell at market?
- Emerald Elephants: Shakespeare (A Midsummer Nights Dream, Romeo and Juliet & Macbeth)
- Purple Polar Bears and Purple Penguins: Curious incident of the Dog in the Night Time.

Our assemblies will focus on the character strength of '**Eloquence**' this term and we will be exploring the importance of being able to speak out, stand up for what is right as well as looking at famous speakers.

Reminders and important info:

Parent-Teacher Consultations

We look forward to seeing you at our parent teacher consultations beginning the week of Monday 26th February. Each teacher has their own daytime appointments and all teachers will be holding after school appointments on Thursday 1st March (except Emerald Elephants- Wednesday 28th February). Please sign up for a meeting with your child's class teacher (appointment lists will be on the picnic benches outside the infant entrance from 26th February).

Field - We would like the children to use the field as much as possible at lunchtimes as they can have a more fulfilling playtime. However it is often muddy at this time of year so please could you send in an extra pair of shoes (e.g. trainers/ wellies) with your child so they can change when they go on the field. KS2 children should already have additional trainers in school for outside use. Thank you.



Easter Service - We will be repeating our very successful Easter celebration at St Michael's Church on **Thursday 29th March**. The children sing the Easter and spring songs they have been learning in music lessons, perform readings and recite prayers they have written and the vicar (Jeremy Bamber) will give a short address. As the church is so small, we will only be taking the Key Stage 2 children. If any parents are available to help us walk to the church, please could you see your child's class teacher?

Clubs update - All clubs start back in the week beginning 19th February. Please see the website or ask at the office if you would like any information on the clubs available.

Our Children as Leaders - We are thrilled to announce that some of our children are showing excellent leadership qualities and have set up their own lunchtime clubs. Origami Club, Gloria's French Club and Tongue Twisters Club have been organised by children in Years 5 and 6 following consultation with Mrs O'Donoghue. Each club has been well planned and resourced, requiring very little, if any, input from adults and is well attended by a range of children.

E-Safety – Keeping children safe online

The Internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge. You may sometimes feel that your children have better technical skills than you do, however children and young people still need advice and protection when it comes to managing their lives online.

These sites can help you to keep your child safe:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

You Tube – Where's Klaus? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4GKXsAOYZE>

Facebook requires everyone to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account. Creating an account with false info is a violation of their terms. This includes accounts registered on the behalf of someone under 13. Children could be putting themselves in danger if they post pictures of themselves online or don't understand the privacy settings.

The next Online Safety Coffee morning for parents and carers will be on Thursday 26th April at 9am in the computer suite.

DATES

SEE CLASS NEWSLETTERS FOR DETAILS OF CLASS EVENTS

March

1st - evening parent consultations

2nd - World Book Day (dress up)

9th- Coins along the Corridor

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

21st March – SEND Parent's Forum @ 2:45– for parents of children with a Special Educational Need or Disability.

22nd- Parent's Forum @ 2.30 pm.

23rd -Sports Relief Day (Dress up- Sports theme)

27th– Year 5 show @ 2:30 pm

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

24th - SEND Parent's Forum @ 9am– for parents of children with a Special Educational Need or Disability

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

20th - SEND Parent's Forum @ 2:45– for parents of children with a Special Educational Need or Disability

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

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