

# WELCOME TO TERM 5



Thank you to all the parents, children and staff that stayed after school on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March to protest about the funding cuts to schools in East Sussex. The launching of our banner, the distribution of the leaflets as well as the photo of us all protesting were part of a Lewes wide campaign to highlight the funding crisis hitting so many of our schools. It was great to see such a big turnout of South Malling parents all supporting our school.

Whilst we need to continue with the protest and make sure our voice is heard we also need to be active in looking for alternative sources of funding for our school so that we can continue to provide rich and varied educational experiences for our children. It has been wonderful to hear from many parents that want to help us and support us to find other funding, thank you all so much. I will be holding meetings for parents/ carers who might be able to help or who are interested in getting involved in some way on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 pm. and 6.30 pm. I hope that we can work together to share our ideas and work out a plan to generate extra income so we can carry on doing a great job for all our children.

Our **Linking Up Learning** feature this term focusses on how we can best support children with their learning. We know that it can be hard for parents to know how to help at home, particularly when the way we do things today is different from how we were taught ourselves. We have seen a big difference in the children's learning since we started the 'least amount of help first' approach in school. Governors, other Heads and advisers visiting our school have noticed how independent, active and engaged in their learning the children have become. The children have also told us how they value being supported, but not directly told, in their learning so they are able to work things out for themselves.

Many thanks to Miss Schulte for leading our exciting and pioneering work on this project.

**Jo O'Donoghue, Headteacher**



## Attendance and Punctuality in Term 4

Well done to the Gold Gibbons for the best attendance last term. They were at school for 97.6% of the term. We have also been focussing on punctuality as getting to school on time is really important. Children who miss the beginning of the day often don't know what's happening and spend the day 'catching up'. They can feel disorientated and also, miss out on the many social interactions at the beginning of the day. Well done to the Turquoise Tigers class for best punctuality in term 4.

## Looking Back: Term 4 Highlights

### Sport and PE news



In 2018, South Malling was awarded the Bronze School Games Mark. This is a government led awards scheme launched to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition in sport across their school and into the community. Key elements of the award are:

- Participation - how many young people are being engaged in sporting activity?
- Competition - how many different sports are being played and how many competitions are being entered?

So far we have had a very busy sporting calendar, having attended the following competitions:

- ❖ Year 5/6 Southover Football Tournament
- ❖ Year 3/4 Basketball Festival
- ❖ Year 5/6 Cross Country
- ❖ Year 5/6 Hi-Five Netball Festival
- ❖ Lewes & Ringmer Swimming Gala
- ❖ Year 5/6 Football League (held over 3 afternoon/evenings)
- ❖ Year 3/4 Football Festival

This has resulted in 133 participations by South Malling children! There were fantastic achievements in many of the competitions with us regularly finishing in the top three schools. Well done to all of the children who have represented the school!

And a HUGE thank you to Mrs Burgess for organising all our Sport and making sure we could be so successful.

### Charity news

Thank you to all those who took part in Comic relief this year. It was great to see the children dressed in different shades of red! In total we raised an amazing £803.38.



### Performances in Term Four

Term Four was jam-packed with dramatic performances and musical experiences at South Malling. First, the talented Fuchsia Flamingos entertained us with their interpretation of Ted Hughes' story, The Iron Man. The Flamingos wowed us with their brilliant mix of music, dance, singing, poetry and fabulous costume designs. Next up were the extraordinary Emerald Eagles with an amazing Space themed show. Not only had they researched and learnt all about the first landing on the moon but they also made props, sang, danced, produced and managed the whole performance working exceptionally well as a team. They were truly exceptional!

### Kit Car

Year 6 have been busy for much of this year building, designing and then learning to drive 2 Kit Cars. You may well have seen them practising driving on the field throughout the winter. On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March the team went to race against other schools at Plumpton College. They had to complete a slalom and a drag race. They did really well and picked up a couple of trophies, including winning the greenest bodywork award. Well done to the team who, as always, behaved impeccably supporting and encouraging each other and showing great respect to all who were there. Thank you also to Mrs Swan whose tireless and dedicated work make it all possible!

### Bikeability

Well done to our Year 5 children who trained so hard for their Bikeability Level 2 qualifications during the last week of Term 4. It is great to know that so many children have learnt how to be safe whilst out on the roads.

### Book Day

Our whole school learning journey in Term 4 was ‘Bookworms’ and we enjoyed many book related events including World Book Day and paired class reading. We also invited Grandparents to come into school to read to the children. This was really successful and enjoyed by the children and adults alike. Thank you to all the Grandparents that joined us.

## Looking Forward: Term 5 Events

### Grandparents Tea Parties

Our popular Grandparent (and relative) Tea Parties will be running again this year on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. We will be hosting our KS1 (Infant) Grandparents for coffee in the morning at 10.00 am. and then our KS2 (Junior) Grandparents for tea at 2.00 pm. (Grandparents with children in KS1 and KS2 are welcome to both or either event). Both sittings will have the chance to visit their grandchild’s class and view their work before being treated to refreshments and singing by each class in the Hall.

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

### National Curriculum Tests (SATs)

During Term 5 the children in Year 6 will be participating in Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) in reading, writing and maths. The tests happen in the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> May and take place in the mornings.

Children in Year 2 will also undertake some assessments this term but this is done in a more informal manner throughout the term. All the children in Years 3, 4, 5 will also be assessed at the end of this term using the Optional SATs in reading and maths and teacher assessment in writing.

Children in Year 1 will take a Phonics assessment in June. You will be able to see the children’s results in their reports at the end of the year.

**We are hoping that this year more children than ever will meet the expected standard for their age as this will mean they can then fully and easily access the learning in the next phase of their education.**

### Southeast visit

Year 5 pupils will be staying overnight at the Youth Hostel in Southeast this term. They will be involved in lots of practical science and geography activities including a hike over the Downs!

### What's on this term?

Our school Learning Journey- Wonderful World- has a science and geography theme focusing on Lewes and the world around us. All the children will have lots of hands on experiences and activities as well as thought provoking questions to enhance their learning.

- Red Rabbits: **Down at the Bottom of the Garden**
- Gold Gibbons: **Naturally Lewes**
- Turquoise Tigers and Toucans : **Into the Forest**
- Fuchsia Flamingos : **Local Landscapes: The Stoneage** Would you rather make your Stone Age tool from igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic rock?
- Orange Otters: **Survival**: Can you make it all the way to the top of Everest?
- Emerald Elephants: **How can we look after life on earth?**
- Purple Polar Bears: **Fitter, Faster, Stronger**: How can you make your body a lean, mean, SATS fighting machine?
- Our assembly theme this term will be exploring the Character Strength of Expertise. Children who demonstrate Expertise take pride; edit and redraft their work so that it is only finished when it is their best; love learning and have a thirst for knowledge.

### Healthy Living Week



This year's Healthy Living week (starting Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May ) will have a focus about Healthy Eating! The week will start with a whole school assembly taken by Chartwells (our school meal provider) focusing on Healthy Eating. On Thursday after school Chartwells will be running lots of different events and activities in the hall – this was a great success last year! Teachers are planning lots of lessons and activities with a Healthy Eating focus for week 5.

## Reminders and important info:

### Morning routines

At this point in the year most children are well settled in their classes and we like to use the next term to help them become as independent as possible. Please could you encourage your child to come into school on their own in the mornings, leaving them at the gate or the door to the school. We would like the children to hang up and sort out their own coats, bags, water bottles and homework. Staff are available to support any of our younger children who may find it more difficult. Please do not bring buggies into the school corridor as this creates a fire and safety hazard. To save you having to come into the school corridor or classroom in the mornings please contact the school office (in person, by email or by phone) if you have a message, any medication or a query you need addressed during the day

### Summer uniform

We are hoping that the weather will warm up this term and 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 or canvas shoes 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 and doesn't include boots.

### Assemblies for Parents and Carers

Parents are invited to our Friday, 'Stars Assembly' on these dates:

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Fuchsia Flamingos

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May: Emerald Eagles

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Orange Otters

### Friends News for Term 5

**Easter Activities:** Thank you to all who entered cakes/cupcakes in our **Easter Bake Off**. Our judge had a hard time choosing winners for KS1 and KS2 -- there were so many great entries! Our cake sale after school raised £137.

The **Easter Egg Tombola** raised £170! Thank you to all who donated eggs. A big thank you to Anne Marie and John Graham who ran the event for the Friends.

**Friends Meeting:** Thursday, 2 May 7:30 pm at the Dorset. All welcome! Please join us and find out how we fundraise for the school - no obligation to get any more involved, ideas welcome as much as action.

**Fun Run:** Friday, May 24th 1:45 pm on the school field. Children run/walk/hop a lap for each year of their age. Keep an eye out for sponsorship forms in the children's bookbags. Children are encouraged to seek sponsors -- please ask family, friends and neighbours. The more sponsors children get, the more money they can raise for the school! Parents/carers are invited to come along and cheer for them on the day.

**Summer Fete:** Save the date for the Summer Fete -- Saturday, 13 July. Please get in touch, if you have any ideas for stalls or prizes. **Email:** [southmallingsfriends@gmail.com](mailto:southmallingsfriends@gmail.com)

## **Dates for your diary:**

Please check these dates as some may have changed since the last newsletter.

### **April**

23rd - return to school after Easter holiday

26th- Grandparents tea party (9.30am. KS1 and 2.00pm. KS2)

### **May**

1st– Year 5 trip to Southeast

**6th - Bank Holiday**

Week beginning 13th Year 6 SATs

24th—Fun Run

24th - Last day before half term holiday

### **June**

**3rd- INSET day, no children in school**

**4th-return to school for children**

5th– 7th Bowles residential trip -Year 6

13th– Music concert

Class photos tbc

25th - Sports Day

26th - Reserve Sports Day

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

### **July**

2nd-New Parents evening

6th-Summer fete

8th - Reports out

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

22nd -Celebration event

23rd - Year 6 Leavers Assembly+ Tea

23rd - last day for children before summer holiday

### **September**

**Return to school Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

# Linking Up Learning—What’s the best way to help children?

Helping children with home learning has many benefits, but beware, children are experts at getting adults to do too many things for them.

In this edition of Linking Up Learning, we look at how to support children, by building their own independence and resilience.



Over the last 18 months, all staff at South Malling have been using a model called, ‘The Least Amount of Help First’ to provide children with support, whilst also encouraging the development of independence. We have found that given a bit of time, encouragement and perhaps a small clue, children are developing the skills to be able to help themselves and become expert problem-solvers knowing who and when to ask for help if needed.

