



WELCOME TO TERM 2

We have had a busy start to the new school year with lots of learning and fun throughout the school. We have already enjoyed a Victorian Day, a trip to Hever Castle, the Royal Pavillion, and the Chattri Memorial, a Tutankhamen tomb extravaganza, a Harvest assembly and parent consultations!

Throughout the school, the children have settled extremely well into their new classes. It has been lovely watching the new Reception children (Red Rabbits) settle in. They have made an impressive start and after only a couple of weeks at school were confident enough to join the rest of the school on the field at lunchtimes.

This term we have begun our work on developing Oracy (speaking and listening) across the school and it has been amazing to hear the children discuss, debate and listen to each other with such focus, eloquence and respect. We will explain more about Oracy to parents at their their class's Friday assembly in the coming terms.

It was great to see parents at our coffee mornings for each class and we had nearly 100% attendance at our parent teacher meetings (there are just a few families left to see). The children in Years 3-6 have told me that they feel positive coming to the parent consultations and it helps them with their learning and how they like hearing what their teacher has to say about them and enjoy presenting their learning to their parents.

Without such positive partnerships between home and school the children certainly wouldn't be making the progress they are now. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Jo O'Donoghue, Headteacher

Half term news

During half term we have had a new carpet fitted along the corridor. It has transformed the building and now looks like a brand new school with the freshly painted walls as well.

We are keen to keep the carpet in the best possible condition so would ask that buggies are no longer wheeled through the school. Please could you park them outside the front entrance or just inside the foyer on wet days. Thank you.

Staffing News

Although Mrs Geering is making a good recovery she needs a bit more time to get over her treatment. We are hoping that she will begin a phased return to work in December if she is feeling strong enough.

Looking Forward: Term 2

Children in Need

We are supporting Children in Need this year on Friday 15th November. There will be a mega-market of games and activities in the hall during the afternoon where each class can come and spend their money to try to win prizes. The children can also wear any clothes with spots on or any yellow clothes to school on the 15th for £1.00.

There will be Pudsey merchandise on sale in the week beginning 11th November (headbands £2.50, pin badges and wristbands £1 key rings £2). In the first instance, children can purchase one item each, to allow everyone the opportunity to buy.



Anti-Bullying Week

This year Anti-Bullying week takes place during the week of 11th-15th November. The theme is 'Change Starts with Us' and we will be holding assemblies and planning lessons around that key statement. It would be great if you could discuss the work with your child and use the website www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk to develop any of the themes. If you have any concerns about bullying, please don't hesitate to speak to your child's classteacher, Ms Schulte or Mrs O'Donoghue. Details of our Anti-bullying policy can be found in the Behaviour Policy (Making Positive Relationships) on our website.



Decoration Days

During the week beginning 9th December, the whole school will be involved in creating Christmas decorations for the classrooms and shared areas. Please see class newsletters for dates and details. We welcome as much adult support as possible. Please talk to your child's class teacher if you can spare some time on your classes decoration day to come and help us.



Christmas performances and events

Reception and Nursery will be performing their nativity songs on Monday 16th December at 9.30 am.

Years 1 and 2 will be performing their nativity play on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December at 9.30 am.

Key stage 2 will be singing Carols on Thursday 19th at 2.15 and 3.30 pm. You are welcome to come and join them!

There will be a Christmas service in the Church for Years 1 and 2 on Thursday 19th December.

Unfortunately, space is limited so we are only able to host parents that help walk the children down to the Church.

Our Christmas Lunch will be served on Wednesday 18th December

NEWSLETTER – TERM 2 2019 ★ ★ ★ SOUTH MALLING CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Starting school in September 2020?

We are holding our open days for prospective parents on Tuesday 26th November at 2.00 pm. and Wednesday 27th November at 10.00 am. If you have a child due to start school in September 2020 please come and join us!

Other news:

We are holding our termly Open Afternoon on a selection of dates throughout November. Please see your child's class newsletter for more information. The school will be transformed into museums, music festivals and you will be taken back in time to different periods of history! You will also be able to see all the work your child has been doing around our Time Travellers Learning Journey.

Inset Days: Our next Inset days are on Wednesday 6th November and Monday 2nd December.

Remembrance/ Bonfire Assembly will be held on Friday 8th November. Children are invited to dress in their costumes for the assembly. Poppies, wristbands and other remembrance merchandise can be purchased in school from Monday 4th November.

Dates for parents to join us for Stars Assembly:

Red Rabbits: 6th Dec and 5th June

Gold Gibbons: 13th March

Turquoise Toucans: 3rd April

Fuchsia Foxes: 27th March

Fuchsia Flamingos: 20th March

Orange Otters: 15th Nov & 24th April

Emerald Eagles: 22nd Nov & 15th May

Purple Polar Bears: 29th Nov & 22nd May

Friends of South Malling News

AGM

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the Friends AGM last month. The friends reported another successful year with fundraising significantly higher than previous years. Thank you to everyone who has worked to achieve this through supporting events, fundraising and support from the fundraising group and particularly to Mandi Ramshaw who has done a brilliant job as chair over the last few years.

The committee members for the coming year are Claire Champness (Chair), Haley Vincent (Vice Chair), Gavin Redshaw (Treasurer), Clare Cornford (Secretary), Steve Belfield, Mandi Ramshaw, Michelle Mason Moon, Chloe Prorok, Liz Ridley, Gary Eke, Michael Bennett.

Class Reps are as follows:

Red Rabbits – Gary Eke

Gold Gibbons – Susie Moate

Turquoise Toucans – Mandi Ramshaw

NEWSLETTER – TERM 2 2019 ★ ★ ★ SOUTH MALLING CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Fuchsia Foxes – Michelle Mason Moon

Fuchsia Flamingoes – Martina Moss

Orange Otters – Lucy McAskie

Emerald Eagles – Sarah Muddle

We do not currently have a rep for the Lilac Lambs or for the Purple Polar Bears. The main role of a class rep is to act as a 'link' between the friends and the parents, making sure that everyone one knows what's happening. If you are a parent of one of these classes and are interested in taking on the role, please speak to a member of the committee or email southmallingsfriends@gmail.com.

Disco

Thank you to all the families who supported the South Malling Spooky Disco. We made a fantastic £840 from this event that will go directly to supporting the children of South Malling with class trips and enrichment activities which will benefit all children in the school.

Volunteers needed – First Aid

The Friends are desperately looking for parents and carers who may have a First Aid at Work certificate (3 day course). To enable us to safely put on events throughout the year we need to have a qualified first aider at each event. If you hold the First Aid at Work certificate and would be willing to come along to one or 2 events throughout the year, please contact southmallingsfriends@gmail.com. If we are unable to find any volunteers for this role, we will need to train people in this qualification (£250 for a 3 day course which we'd rather spend on the school).

Friends Events for Term 2

The next **committee meeting** will take place in the upstairs room at the John Harvey Tavern on Thursday 7th November at 7.30pm. Anyone who wishes to support the work of the Friends is welcome to attend - you don't have to be on the committee. The Christmas Fair will be on the agenda - if you have any ideas or want to help out at this event please come along.

Non Uniform Day. 6th December 2019 – Bring along an item in your class colour for the mega Christmas Hamper Draw. Additional donations of sweets and bottles or Christmas items for the tombola are also welcomed.

Christmas Fair 13th December 2019 – Please put this in your calendar. We will need lots of ideas, helpers and cakes to make this event a fundraising success. If you are able to help, please contact southmallingsfriends@gmail.com or come along to the committee meeting on the 7th November. If you're good, Santa might even pay us a visit.....

Secret Present Shop 16 and 17th December 2019 – where children will have the opportunity to buy pre-wrapped presents for their families and friends. We need volunteers to wrap presents (this can be done in your own home) and people to help run the shop during the school day. If you can spare an hour or 2 to help wrap or sell, please email the friends or speak to your class rep. We will have over a thousand presents to wrap so you wont be turned away!

Christmas shopping

If you are shopping on-line, please remember to sign up to **Give as You Live**. You simply use this site to access other sites such as Amazon, Hobbycraft, Ebay, John Lewis and it gives the school a donation everytime you shop. Its amazing how fast it adds up.

If you are buying through the **Book People**, you can also contribute towards the Big Book Boost. Everytime you place an order over £10, they donate £1 to the school for them to spend on books. You just need to select the school you want to donate to.

NEWSLETTER – TERM 2 2019 ★ ★ ★ SOUTH MALLING CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

If you are struggling to sign up to either of these services, please speak to your class rep, email southmallingsfriends@gmail.com or look on the school website for instructions.

Our Wonderful, Amazing & Magical Outdoors!

Last year the South Malling community worked incredibly hard to win two grants to further develop our outdoor learning environment. **WE** now have something most schools would be very envious of; a thriving pond area, raised growing beds filled with organic compost surrounded by fruit trees, a small but much-loved woodland area, compost facilities, herb garden and a field enclosed with a huge variety of trees! The children planted, harvested and tasted a small selection of fruit and vegetables, grew flowers and saw a wide variety of wildlife. They **LOVE** every minute of their learning outside, even in the rain!!!

This year our goal is to plant, grow and harvest much more, maintain and encourage more wildlife and support more children to develop a love of their outdoor environment and what can happen there. We would also like more staff and school community members to use our amazing outdoor spaces to develop their own confidence, skills and understanding in order to make our children's education even better!! Unfortunately, we don't have any helpful elves, fairies or buckets of gold hiding in the garden to do what is needed but we do have **YOU!**

If you would like to help the magic of the **outdoors** to thrive or know of anyone in your family, then please let us know?

We are looking for support with; Basic maintenance of all areas- weeding, hedge trimming, clearing leaves, pruning, sowing, planting, watering and harvesting, Supporting teachers with outdoor activities at the same time as learning skills yourself and working with small groups of children with support from staff to experience forest skills.

PLEASE don't feel you have to commit to a regular time or day. If we get enough volunteers, then together we can do everything required to make the most of what we have and enjoy it ourselves at the same time.

Please contact your class teacher or the office staff if you would like to **HELP** and we will get back to you as soon as possible to arrange a time to meet up. Mrs Hunt is currently working back at the school in a consultancy role for a limited time only and is hoping to help establish a working group that can continue to support **OUR SCHOOL** with their outdoor learning.

School Council News

Following hard-fought elections our new South Malling School Council has been formed this term. We have 2 representatives from each class from Year 3 onwards Their photos are on the board in the corridor. This year we also have a Chair, (Year 6) who does a great job feeding back to Mrs O'Donoghue and the staff. This year they will continue to focus their discussions on how to promote healthy eating as part of our healthy schools development as well as leading all fundraising activities and providing feedback on learning in their classrooms.

Online Safety Updates

Social networking

The UK Council for Internet Safety has recently published a [2-page guide for parents and carers](#) useful documents, which can be found on the Curriculum / E-Safety page of our website.

BBC Well-being App



The BBC has created a "wellbeing" smartphone app called Own It aimed at children.

It monitors how young people interact with friends and family online and through messaging apps.

It uses Artificial Intelligence to evaluate a child's mood so it can offer advice or encourage them to talk to trusted adults.

The app is designed to offer help and support especially if children are about to share sensitive data or send an upsetting message.

"The digital world is a fantastic place for people to learn and share, but we know many young people struggle to find a healthy online balance, especially when they get their first phones," said Alice Webb, director of BBC Children's, in a statement.

Ms Webb said the app would act as a "helping hand" to guide children into developing good habits when using their first phone and avoid some of the potential pitfalls of digital life.

Suggested Apps and Games for Early Years, 7-11 Years and 11-14 Years can be found on the Curriculum / E-Safety page of our website. These are made available as part of our school subscription to National Online Safety (paid for by the Friends of South Malling). There are weekly updates in the class newsletter, and many parent guides can be found on the Curriculum / E-Safety page of our website. Parents and carers also have access to free online safety training at <https://lms.nationalonlinesafety.com/school/SouthMalling>

There will be an Online Safety Coffee morning for parents and carers on Wednesday 20th November from 9-10am, I look forward to seeing you then.

Annie Schulte

Dates for your diary:

November

Monday 4th return to school

6th– INSET day. School closed to children

Open Afternoons: Class and School museum see individual class newsletters

7th- Friends committee meeting @John Harveys Tavern 7.30 pm.

8th- Bonfire and Remembrance assembly

11th-15th Anti-Bullying Week.

15th- Children in Need Day

19th- Nursery Coffee morning @9.15 am.

Prospective parent visits Tuesday 26th @ 2.00 pm. and Wednesday 27th @ 10.00m.

December

2nd– INSET day. School closed to children

Week beginning 9th -Decoration Days (see class newsletters)

6th- non uniform day - children to bring in Christmas hamper items

11th- Parent's Forum @2.30 pm.

13th- Christmas Fair

16th- Reception and Nursery performance @9.30 am.

17th & 18th-KS1 performances @9.30 am.

18th- Christmas lunch

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

6th –children return to school

10th– Prospective parent visit 10.00 am.

Friends committee meeting

February

Year 4 show @2.15 pm. tbc

Week beginning 10th - Enterprise Week: Open afternoon in the classes. See class newsletters for details

14th- last day before half term

24th – INSET day. School closed to children

25th- children return to school after half term

Friends committee meeting

NEWSLETTER – TERM 2 2019 ★ ★ ★ SOUTH MALLING CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

March

Week beginning 2nd – Parent Consultations
5th– After school consultations
6th- World Book Day (dress up)
Year 3 performance @ 9.30 am. tbc
13th -Sports Relief Day

April

2nd- Easter Service in Church for KS2 @ 9.45 am.
2nd- – Year 5 performance @2.15 pm.
3rd - Easter cake competition
3rd – last day before Easter holidays
20th- return to school after Easter holiday

May

1st- Grandparents tea party (9.30am. KS1 and 2.00pm. KS2)

8th- Bank Holiday

Week beginning 11th Year 6 SATs
14th-15th-Year 5 trip to Southease
Week beginning 18th- Healthy Week
19th- Sports Day
20th- Reserve Sports Day
22nd - Last day before half term holiday

June

1st - INSET day, no children in school
2nd -return to school for children
3rd– 5th Bowles residential trip -Year 6
– Friends committee meeting
10th-Class photos
12th- Science Fair
25th– Music concert
26th-non uniform day; children to bring in fete items
26th- Fun Run
30th- New to Reception evening @ 7.00 pm.

July

4th-Summer fete
6th - Reports out
16th- Year 6 Performances @ 2.15 and 6.30 pm.
20th -Celebration event
21st - Year 6 Leavers Assembly+ Tea
21st - last day for children before summer holiday

Inset days: 4th September 6th November 2nd December 24th February 2020

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