

WELCOME TO TERM 4



Once again South Malling was a very busy and productive place last term. All classes were working on their Enterprise theme with lots of designing, making and selling of a whole range of interesting products including biscuits in the Nursery, framed paintings in Year 5, pet shelters in Year 1 and fruit cocktails in Year 2! We had an inspiring art exhibition from the Year 5 Emerald Eagles, a wonderful café in the Toucans, some excellent maths workshops for parents and a very well attended and well-received workshop for parents on anxiety, mental health and wellbeing.

In the middle of all the busyness, we received a phone call from Ofsted letting us know that the school was going to be inspected the following day! On Tuesday 28th January we welcomed Mrs Becky Greenhalgh (lead inspector from Ofsted) and Mrs Frances Nation (Her Majesty's Inspector) who was quality assuring the inspection process. The Ofsted Inspection Framework has been revised since our previous inspection in 2016 and the most recent change; September 2019 has created very robust set criteria on which to judge schools. Mrs Greenhalgh conducted a rigorous and at times gruelling, inspection of our school and concluded that South Malling remains a 'Good' school where pupils are happy, safe and feel cared for by all adults. The report highlights how relationships are a real strength of the school, staff are highly ambitious for their pupils and children show great respect to each other and adults. The report in full will be published this week and you will receive a copy. The children, staff and governors were a real credit to the school. The inspector was very impressed with the eloquence of the children and thought they were 'super'! We were also thrilled to see the huge level of parental engagement with the Ofsted process through the high number of people who completed Ofsted's online questionnaire. Thank you for your support.

We are proud of our school and pleased that the report reflects the amazing work that goes on in it. To achieve such a favourable outcome and report from Ofsted requires exceptional hard work and dedication from the South Malling team, so a massive congratulations to everyone!

Jo O'Donoghue, Headteacher



Attendance News

Congratulations to the Fuschia Foxes! They are the only class in the school where nobody has attendance below the essential 90%. This means they have been in school the most, able to get on with learning and having fun with their friends.

School Swimming Charter

We are pleased to announce that we have joined in partnership with Swim England, the national governing body for swimming, to help every one of our pupils become confident and capable swimmers.

The school has signed up to 'take school swimming seriously' by implementing the Swim England School Swimming and Water Safety Charter. The Charter will provide us with a comprehensive package of support to ensure the school has the necessary knowledge and resources required to deliver exceptional school swimming programmes.

By signing up to the Charter, South Malling pupils and teachers also benefit from an extensive support pack of specialised school swimming resources, which will provide staff with the knowledge and skills they need to deliver effective and successful lessons.

We are excited to be launching such a positive initiative at the school and look forward to starting these new lessons with our **Emerald Eagles**. Everyone will benefit from the implementation of this charter; our pupils will be able to enjoy the recognition of their progress with awards for reaching milestones, staff will receive substantial support and specialised resources on how to teach swimming, and parents can be reassured that their children are learning invaluable life skills in a fun, encouraging environment.

Swimming is an essential lifesaving skill that every child has a right to learn and by signing up to, the School Swimming and Water Safety Charter we want to show that we are dedicated to making our school swimming lessons the best they can be.



Children's Mental Health Week

This year we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week, with at least one lesson or class assembly in each class. You can find out more here <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>. There is also a page at the back of this newsletter all about mental health and emotional well-being at South Malling.

Snacks

Following discussions with with parents, staff and children we would like to suggest that children can bring in breadsticks as well as fruit or vegetables for their morning snacks. There is also the option of purchasing a carton of milk through the CoolMilk scheme if you feel your child would benefit from it at playtimes.

Mathletics

You may be aware the subscription to Mathletics has ended and children can't currently access it. We are hoping to renew the subscription but as it is very expensive we want to ensure we are getting good value for money so need as many children as possible to use it. Mr Moylett will be launching a new Mathletics incentive in our assemblies and there will be regular updates in this newsletter to inform parents how it is going. Whilst we are waiting for our re-launch, here are some links to free online maths games;

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting> and <https://www.purplemash.com>

Looking Forward: Term 4 Events

Week beginning 2nd March 2020

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. This year it will also have a particular oracy focus.

The children will be discussing either their favourite book or book character. To help them with this they can use the sentence stem

My favourite book (book character) is ... because...

Please support them at home to be prepared for this ready for **Friday 6th March**, which is our dress up day.



Friends News

The Friends are aiming to reach out to the community this year and we are looking for new ideas to reach people outside the school. If you have any fundraising ideas or know of any person/organisations who might be willing to donate or to sponsor an event, please get in touch.

Amongst other things, we are considering launching a Friends lottery, a scarecrow trail and a running event. If you have any experience in any of these and would be willing to help, (particularly ref the running!) please let us know - southmallingsfriends@gmail.com.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 3rd March, 7.30 at the John Harvey Tavern. Please come along.

Our first event this term will be the School Disco on Friday 28th February at 5.30pm. Tickets will be on sale at pick up every day this week or, if you can't pick up and want tickets, please contact us. If you are not looking forward to sitting there for two hours (!), please volunteer to help. It helps the school, sets a good example to your children and helps the time pass quickly!

Please remember that you can always donate to the Friends by using 'Give as you Live' as your online shopping platform. Details are on the school website and committee members will be around to show you this site/help you sign up at the school disco if you are interested. Please also bear us in mind if you are taking part in sponsored events and find out if your employer offers to 'match' any funds you raise. If you are going to go to all that effort, you may as well get as much as you can!

What is on this term?

Our school Learning Journey this term continues with our Curious Creations theme and focusses on 'Bookworms' where the focus is English. Our paired classes will be reading to each other and sharing their writing.

- Lilac Lambs: [Special Powers and Palaces](#) (a mix of Prince and Princess Stories and Goody and Baddy stories).
- Red Rabbits: [What's your Superpower?](#) (Avocado Baby, Supertato)
- Gold Gibbons: [I'm the King of the Castle](#) (Jack and the Beanstalk)
- Turquoise Toucans: [Can Changes be Invisible and Still Take Place?](#) Creating an information book on butterflies
- Fuchsia Flamingos and Foxes: [What Does it Mean to Live in Harmony? \(with man, nature and culture\) Can one person change the world?](#) The Iron Man (Performance)
- Orange Otters: [What Makes us Healthy?](#) This Little Otter went to Market: Can you cook a savoury treat to sell at market?
- Emerald Eagles: [Does the Universe Belong to Us?](#) Space odyssey performance
- Purple Polar Bears: [Curiouser and Curiouser](#): Curious incident of the Dog in the Night Time.

Our assemblies will focus on the character strength of '**Eloquence**' and the Christian value of '**Creativity**'.

Eloquence - Term 4

This term, our 'bookworm' learning journey of 'Curious Creations' naturally leads us to focus on the character strength of '**Eloquence**'. The children will be encouraged to think about and compare different ways in which we can be eloquent; from learning to perform poetry for World Book Day to considering how we can improve our 'exploratory learning- talk' in lessons, by challenging ourselves to ask curious questions and justify our responses using 'because'.

What can I do at home? You could talk to your child about their favourite books or authors. Ask them what they like so much about the writing and encourage them to give a reason for their answer. Or, you could listen out for any 'ambitious' or new words your child is using and praise them for their eloquence

Our Children as Leaders

We are thrilled to announce that some of our children are showing excellent leadership qualities as School Councillors, Sports Leaders and Eco Warriors. On Friday 20th March the Year 6, children will take this one-step further and 'takeover' the school. They will teach classes, run the school office and someone will need to take on the role of deputy and headteacher!

Assemblies for Parents in Term 4

We look forward to welcoming parents to our Friday Celebration Assemblies:

Friday 13th March: Gold Gibbons

Friday 20th March: Fuchsia Flamingos

Friday 15th March: Fuchsia Foxes

Friday 22nd March: Turquoise Toucans

Reminders and important info:

Parent-Teacher Consultations

We look forward to seeing you at our parent teacher consultations beginning the week of Monday 2nd March. Each teacher has their own daytime appointments and all teachers will be holding after school appointments on Thursday 5th March (except Fuchsia Flamingos and Lilac Lambs – Wednesday 4th March). 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 25th February). This time we will not be inviting the children in Key Stage 2 to attend with parents.

Field and Outdoor Learning

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.

Outdoor learning goes ahead whatever the weather so please make sure that your child has adequate clothing if it is particularly wet or cold and they are doing outdoor learning (Term 4-Turquoise Toucans, Fuchsia Foxes). Please see Mrs Hunt if you need support with this.



Easter Service

We will be repeating our very successful Key Stage 2 Easter celebration at St Michael's Church on **Thursday 2nd April**. The children sing the Easter and spring songs they have been learning in music lessons, perform readings and recite prayers they have written and Neil Chisnell, the **Children and Families Minister at TRINITY Church** 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 25th February. Please see the website or ask at the office if you would like any information on the clubs available.

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.

Please see the Parents page on our website for further details on how you can support your child to be safe on the internet.

Arrangements for collecting your children

Please could you let us know in the morning if your child is going to be collected by somebody else in the afternoon, either in the class or at the Office. We realise that there are sometimes unavoidable, **emergency** situations, which mean there is a last minute change of plan. However, it can be difficult to ensure a message is delivered to your child if we get a call in the afternoon so we would be grateful if last minute changes are reserved for **emergencies** only. Thank you.

DATES SEE CLASS NEWSLETTERS FOR DETAILS OF CLASS EVENTS

March

Week beginning 2 nd	Parent Consultations
4 th	Nursery & Reception Parent's Forum @9.00am
4 th	Lilac Lambs & Fuchsia Flamingoes After School Consultations
5 th	After School Consultations
6 th	World Book Day (dress up)
	Year 3 performance @ 9.30 am. Tbc
13 th	Sports Relief Day –further details to follow
27 th	Parent's Forum @2.30pm

April

2 nd -	Easter Service in Church for KS2 @ 9.45 am.
2 nd	Year 5 performance @2.15 pm.
3 rd	Easter Cake Competition
3 rd	Last day before Easter holidays
20 th	Return to school after Easter holiday

May

1 st	Grandparents tea party (9.30am. KS1 and 2.00pm. KS2)
4 th	Note: may 4th is NOT a Bank Holiday
8 th	Bank Holiday
Week beginning 11 th	Year 6 SATs
14 th -15 th	Year 5 trip to Southease
Week beginning 18 th	Healthy Week
19 th	Sports Day
20 th	Reserve Sports Day
22 nd	Last day before half term holiday

June

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

July

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

Contact Details:

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Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being

According to NHS research in 2017, 1 in 8 young people will experience a mental health problem, with an average onset of age 11 years old.

With this in mind, on our School Development Plan for this year, we have included this objective: To raise awareness amongst the staff of Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being so that they are better prepared to support pupils.

What have we done so far?

As a staff we have celebrated World Mental Health Day (10th October 2019) and have taken part in some mental health training run by Ms Schulte.

We have set up a Mental Health working group of staff and governors (Ms Schulte, Mrs Burgess, Sarah Lyons and Lucy McAskie).

Mrs Burgess, Mrs Eade and Ms Schulte have attended training run by East Sussex: Managing Anxiety at Home and at School.

Mrs Burgess has completed the Mental Health Champion training.

Ms Schulte and Poppy Falconer (social work student) have attended training by the Time to Talk organisation.

We have celebrated Children's Mental Week (3rd – 9th February) with the children (at least one lesson or assembly in each class).

Ms Schulte, Janet Wilde and Poppy Falconer have run an anxiety workshop for parents (13th Feb 2020)

A Mental Health and Well-Being page has been created on our website, in the Parent's section.

How do we support children in school?

All children take part in class assemblies and have Worry Boxes in their classrooms. Children have good relationships with the adults at school and know who they can talk to if they need support. Childline is advertised around the school.

Some children have dedicated time to talk with their teaching assistant or Sarah, our Learning Mentor.

A few children have dedicated time with Mrs Bowler each week. Mrs Bowler has completed the ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) training.

A few children have weekly sessions with Janet Wilde, psychotherapeutic counsellor.

What will we do next?

We will be planning for opportunities to teach about mental health and emotional well-being in our curriculum.

Continue to add to the Mental Health page on our website.

Hold another parent workshop on another mental health issue in term 6.

Rachael Burgess will undertake the Mental Health First Aid training.

A mental health and emotional well being policy will be developed.

