

WELCOME TO TERM 3



Welcome back and a Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable and peaceful holiday, and that Father Christmas found his way to you all!

As we start a new decade and 2020 lots of us will, I'm sure, be making New Year resolutions many of which will centre around improving ourselves, our health and our lifestyles. At South Malling we are no exception! As you may know, all state schools receive a pot of funding to promote healthy and active lifestyles in children. This is given on the back of Government concern about increasing rates of childhood obesity and associated illnesses and concern about young people's mental health and wellbeing as well as recognition that children are generally less active now than in the past.

We are continuing to use this money to support our children in learning about healthy lifestyle choices and to develop and increase the amount of sport and PE provision in school. Our exciting new PE curriculum and our daily JumpStart Jonny sessions continue to be very popular with the children and are designed to increase physical activity during the day. We have also seen a significant increase in the numbers of children representing our school in local sporting events and doing really well at them. The School Council are continuing their work on healthy eating and will be focusing on lunchtimes this term. If you would like to know more about these initiatives or have any concerns please come and speak to us.

With very best wishes for a healthy and active 2020!

Mrs Jo O'Donoghue, Headteacher



Fund raising news

This year we raised a fantastic amount of money for Children in Need. Thank you to all of you who supported the event and helped us make a massive £733 The children did a fantastic job with all their inventive sales ideas and should be very proud of themselves.

School Admissions

Don't forget that the closing date for applications for children aged 4 who want to start school next September is Wednesday 15th January 2020. Any late applications are only considered at a later date and so may not get their school of choice.

If you need any help completing the form electronically please see Mrs Cable or Mrs Newth in the office.

Looking forwards to Term 3

Staffing update

We are delighted that both Mrs Moorey and Mrs Geering will be starting a phased return to work on 6th January with the hope that by February half term they will be back to their full responsibilities. Mrs Moorey is going to come back to her nursery role but has resigned from her office role so Mrs Newth will now be in class in the morning and in the office every afternoon until 5.00 pm. Mr Carr is joining the Purple Polar Bears to provide additional support as he prepares to train as a teacher.

Mr Wooller's wife is beginning to recover from her illness and Mr Wooller will be back teaching the Otters.

How do we keep our children safe? Lockdown procedures

At South Malling school we are committed to ensuring the safety of all our children. We do this in many ways including our safeguarding practices and procedures, our behaviour management policies and our premises security. We also regularly practice fire evacuation procedures so the children and staff all know what to expect and what to do in the event of a fire. Recently we have been on training to find out how to keep everybody safe if there was an unexpected event from an external source. This could, for example, include a gas explosion locally, a major road traffic incident on a nearby road, an intruder to the premises or an escaped dangerous animal in the vicinity. We now have a Lockdown Policy that outlines the procedures we need to take in the event of such an emergency. We will be talking to and preparing the children so we can practice our Lockdown procedures in the first couple of weeks this term. The children will learn how to respond to the alarm raised by remaining completely silent until a given signal and the teachers will close all doors, window blinds and cover windows to the classrooms. We need to prepare the children so they understand the importance of the situation without making them feel any panic in exactly the same way as we do for fire practices.

Our Lockdown policy is now on the website for your information. If you would like to find out more or want to discuss the policy, please come and see Mrs O'Donoghue.

'Who Inspires You?' Day

This term our whole school learning journey is centred around aspiration, the different careers or jobs that are available and who is inspirational for our children. On Friday 17th January it is Who Inspires You Day and the children are being invited to dress up as the

person who inspires them. It will be the focus of our assembly and the children will get the opportunity to talk about their character and why they chose them.

We are also looking for parents or relatives to come in to school during the term and talk to the children about their job or their career path. We would love to get as many parents with as big a variety of jobs as possible. Please see your child's classteacher if you think you might be able to join us. Thank you!

[Is lunchtime at South Malling as healthy and active as it could be?](#)

The School Council have been discussing ways to make the lunchtime experience at South Malling even better. They have reported back that some children don't like the timings of the lunch break and would prefer to go straight to the lunch hall from their classes rather than go outside for a shorter play, eat lunch and then have another short play. They have also noticed how a significant number of children are bringing packed lunches that don't meet our Healthy Guidelines and contain a high number of items in packets. This term the School Council, lunchtime assistants and staff will be looking at ways to make the lunchtime experience as happy, healthy and active as possible.



[Do you want to find out more or have you got a question or a niggles about school?](#)

An excellent partnership between school and home is essential to the success of our children and at South Malling we really like to know what parents/ carers think about what's happening at school, both the good things and the not so good things! You are always welcome to come and speak to Mrs O'Donoghue or Miss Schulte if you have a question, observation, a concern or even a niggles. We would much, much rather know about it, try to help sort it out or take on board your opinion, than leaving it to fester, or put it on social media or that it's gossiped about in the playground! Our termly **Parent's Forum** is also a great place to come and talk about school related topics, however big or small. Mrs O'Donoghue asks parents/carers their opinions on various topics she needs help with and then there is a chance to ask questions about anything concerning you. The next forum will be on **Friday 24th January at 2.30 pm**. If you're unable to come, please feel free to email in any questions you would like discussed to the Office.

Roadworks

We have received notification that there are going to be major roadworks on the A27 between the Southeram and Ashcombe roundabouts from January to April. This could impact the traffic in the surrounding area (e.g. A26) so please leave plenty of time for your journeys to and from school.

What do we want our children to learn at South Malling?

We have been reviewing the curriculum we provide and thinking about what it is that we want our children to have learnt and be able to do when they leave South Malling. This is known as our curriculum intent and further information about it can be found on our website. You can also come and find out more and let us know what you think after our Friday Star assemblies.

Other news:

Parents / carers are invited to come and watch their child in a maths lesson this term. Parents often say they are unsure about how we teach calculations these days so please see your child's newsletter for dates and come and see how we teach maths and what your child learns in a maths lesson.

Inset Days: Our next Inset day is on Monday 24th February 2020.

Dates for parents to join us for Stars Assembly:

Red Rabbits:	5th June
Gold Gibbons:	13th March
Turquoise Toucans:	3rd April
Fuchsia Foxes:	27th March
Fuchsia Flamingos:	20th March
Orange Otters:	24th April
Emerald Eagles:	15th May
Purple Polar Bears:	22nd May

Friends of South Malling News

Happy new year to everyone from the Friends. We hope you have had a restful break. Thank you for all your support and in the run up to Christmas with the hampers, Christmas Fair and Secret Santa shop.

During term 3, the Friends will be putting on a disco, with an exciting new theme. Date to be confirmed in the new year along with some exciting fundraising opportunities.

We will also be holding a uniform sale on the **6th February**. Please could any donations of uniform, along with any unwanted nativity costumes, book day, Victorian and Egyptian day costumes that you no longer need be left by the bench. This year, we are also looking for donations of Christmas jumpers so they can be reused, so please think of the Friends if you have any outgrown jumpers.

The next Friends meeting will take place on **Monday 13th January** at the John Harvey Tavern at 7.30pm. Please come along if you would like to support fundraising at South Malling School. Everyone is welcome!

Character Strengths for Term 3

Children demonstrating **grit** will:

Show improvements in their behaviour over time, Persevere whilst model-making etc; adapt work where needed. Try and try again; make mistakes; take some risks; not allow disappointment to curb enthusiasm; enjoy challenges; view mistakes as a step for learning; stay on task. Not give up, will cross out and not rub out mistakes; know the difference between draft and best, Have courage to admit and learn from mistakes; try new things and be resilient when facing a challenge; keep focussed.

Attendance matters

‘Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world’ Nelson Mandela

Arm yourself with the most powerful weapon.
Attend school EVERYDAY!

Safer Internet Day

Safer internet day this year is on **11th February**. The children will be involved in a range of different activities to help them understand how to use the internet in the safest possible way.

An Online Safety newsletter will be sent out to parents during the week of 10th February. If you have any specific concerns you would like to discuss please feel free to make a time to see Miss Schulte, our online Safety Leader.

Clubs update

All school run clubs (except After School and Breakfast clubs) start back in the week beginning 13th January. Clubs run by external providers will contact you with their start dates. Please see the website or ask at the office if you would like any information on the clubs available.

What's on this term?

Our school Learning Journey — ‘Curious Creations’ — is an enterprise theme focusing on maths, design technology, science and financial capability. We will end the topic with an Enterprise Open Afternoons (see individual class newsletters for dates and times) where parents can come and buy some of the products and share their children’s work. Our **assembly themes** this term continue to be on our values and our character strengths. Our focus in Term 3 is on Grit and Perseverance. We will be looking at these in a variety of ways including through the lives of significant people in history and sport.

Red Rabbits: **Bears, bears and more bears!**

Gold Gibbons: **Purrfect Pets** (Who can design and create a bed / home or toy for a pet?)

Turquoise Toucans: **Little Red** Is the wolf bad? Should we always be given a second chance? (making and selling pizza)

Fuchsia Flamingos and Foxes: **The Iron Man** What does it mean to live in harmony? (with man, nature and culture) Can one person change the world?

Orange Otters: **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**

Emerald Eagles: **Does the Universe Belong to Us?** (art gallery based on work on the solar system)

Purple Polar Bears: Lost thing **Shaun Tan** Are we all connected?

Dates for your diary:

January

6th	Children return to school
10 th	Prospective parent visit 10.00 am.
13 th	Friends committee meeting
24 th	Parent’s Forum @2.30 pm.

February

12 th	Year 4 performance @2.15 pm. tbc
Week beginning 10th	Enterprise Week: Open afternoon in the classes. See class newsletters for details
14 th	Last day before half term
24 th -	INSET day. School closed to children
25 th	Children return to school after half term

March

Week beginning 2 nd	Parent Consultations
5 th	After school consultations
6 th -	World Book Day (dress up)

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13th Year 3 performance @ 9.30 am. tbc
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)

4th **Note: may 4th is NOT a Bank Holiday**

8th **Bank Holiday**

Week beginning 11th Year 6 SATs

14th-15th Year 5 trip to Southeast

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

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

Contact Details:

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Have you checked if your child could receive additional funding and support

You may be missing out on this important benefit if not. Even if your child doesn't want to eat a school lunch or is in the Infants so doesn't pay for their lunch, the school receives additional funding for any child registered for the Pupil Premium Grant. This money can be used to pay for their lunches (in KS2), to support your child with after school clubs, trips out, additional learning support amongst other things. Pop into the office if you think your child might be entitled to this important additional support.

This year we will also be receiving additional funding for children who are, or have been, adopted. If this could apply to your child please let Mrs O'Donoghue know.

