



South Avenue Primary School

Newsletter

Term 1



Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

As we come towards the end of the first term, I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received. I absolutely love being the new Headteacher of South Avenue and I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know your fantastic children and the amazing staff team. I have been very impressed by the positive enthusiasm for learning shown by the children and their great sense of fun.

This term has flown by and we are delighted with how well our new Reception children have settled. They are now very much part of our school family and it is a joy to see their growing confidence. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our new families - I hope that you feel part of our 'South Avenue family' soon. I had the pleasure of walking to the library with both Reception classes last week. They thoroughly enjoyed the library visit and were so enthusiastic! The library staff were really impressed with their behaviour and love of books.

We are delighted to have welcomed 5 new teachers and several teachers have changed year groups. Everyone is settling into their new roles well and I am very grateful to all the staff for their dedication and positivity. There have been so many events taking place - including the Lego workshop, the Swale Festival of Lights, the mobile planetarium and the author visit to name a few. The Year 6 children supported the Year 1's with their geography work last Friday. They walked with them around the neighbouring streets and helped them to identify key features. The empathy and responsibility demonstrated by the Year 6 children was outstanding. They were a real credit to us all.



We ended the term with our special Harvest Festival, when we gave thanks for the gift of food. I think our neighbours will have been lucky enough to hear the children singing 'He's got the Whole World in his Hands' with great passion and enthusiasm! Thank you on behalf of the Sittingbourne Foodbank for all your donations of food and other items, which will greatly benefit those in need, within our local community. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our parents for your generosity and support with our other fundraising events this term – Jeans for Genes (£179) and Macmillan Nurses (£153.68).

I am delighted that our school has been chosen by the Charlie Harris Olympic Legacy Fund to receive some additional funding for sporting activities. This means that our children will have more opportunities to take part in sporting competitions and events. They may also be given the chance to try out new sports.

Schools are very busy places and there is always so much to do. This year, we will build on all of the previous successes and continue to focus on developing the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. This will include:

- Further developing how we teach maths and looking at how the children apply their skills to word problems.
- Enhancing how we teach phonics and spelling across the school.
- Continuing to promote behaviours for learning, such as being resilient.
- Developing our outside areas, including the Foundation Stage outdoor provision.

We are really looking forward to this school year and to working together to ensure that South Avenue Primary School continues to be a fantastic place to learn and provides the best possible start to your child's education. Thank you for being such supportive parents and for taking such an active and positive interest in all we do as a school. Please do come and see your child's class teacher, or myself, if you have any concerns or worries.

I hope you have an enjoyable half term. I look forward to seeing you all at the start of Term 2, when we will be ready for a magnificent term, full of fantastic learning and amazing fun!

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Fenn
Headteacher

Collaboration, Commitment, Creativity, Courage, Community, Challenge

Year R

This term Peridot and Emerald classes have been looking at themselves, the local area and local community. We enjoyed our visit to the library and had a brief visit from the local fire service. Sadly, the crew were called away on an emergency; however, we are delighted that they will be returning to spend more time with the children at the beginning of Term 2.



Below are some quotes from the children about what they looked forward to before the visit and what they enjoyed about their visit from Kent Fire and Rescue.

'I really enjoyed sitting inside the fire engine.' Caitlin

'I loved all of it, but I saw lots of hoses and ladders' Jack

'I like the ladders and I want to climb one' Oliver



On Friday 12th October, **Year 1** were joined by Year 6 for a walk around the local area to think about the buildings that are all around us and what they are made of.

It was a lovely sunny day for a walk, and Year 6 had prepared for the trip by thinking of questions which would help the Year 1's remember their learning from this term.

After that, Year 6 and 1 had a joint play, and it was lovely to see the older children and younger ones enjoying each other's company.

Year 2 had an exciting visit from Ian, from the KIC Theatre company, to begin their new topic on castles. The children learnt all about castles through different drama activities. We had lots of fun!

"I enjoyed being the lady of the castle." (Isabella T).

"My favourite part of the morning was pretending to chop the trees down to get the wood for the castle." (Tommy L).



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Year 3 have been learning all about circuses as part of our Topic work. The children have loved creating their own circuses in the style of The Moscow State Circus, designing adverts for our posters in the style of Cirque du Soleil and making a circus performer in the style of the Chinese State Circus.

We have also been writing explanation texts on how to become a circus performer - with some children choosing sword swallowing!



Last Friday, **Year 4 pupils** and their families attended the Fusion Festival Lights parade and firework display with their hand crafted lanterns, made at school workshops. It was such a brilliant event, with a lovely atmosphere on a balmy October evening, and so good to see so many other families from the school coming out to enjoy the evening. We will look forward to taking part again next year.



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This term, **Year 5** went on a journey through our solar system in the Astrodome.

We learnt all about the different planets that make up our solar system, and even saw some shooting stars!



As part of their Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, **Year 5 & Year 6** welcomed a representative from the Medway Education Business Partnership (MEBP) to South Avenue. The children embarked on a Lego house STEM challenge, whereby they had to design and build their own house from Lego on a budget of £200, putting their maths and enterprise skills to the test!

"It was a fun experience but extremely challenging!!" Charlie S (Y6)

"We had to keep changing our ideas to meet the criteria, so it became very challenging!" Paddy T (Y6)

"It was enjoyable because it was a challenge that really tested our thinking!" Kamilla B (Y6)



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Introducing our School Council

School Council Elections have now taken place and the new School Council representatives have been elected.

We look forward to sharing all their wonderful thoughts and ideas at the School Council meeting, next term.



*Meet our school council representatives
2018-19*



Congratulations to our new House Captains and Vice Captains:

Rochester

Sadie W & Archie W

Leeds

Skye G & Mia H

Dover

Tamika B & Seth D

Walmer

Nevaeh W & Daniel R

Sporting News!



A huge well done to South Avenue's Girls' Football Team! They have trained every day, in readiness for their first football tournament at Minterne Junior School. We are very proud of their progress and how superbly they have represented the school.



*Grace G, Lola B, Aliyah-Jay G, Kamilla B (C), Kaci G, Lexi H,
Holli B, Keira W & Anastasiya M.*

We have some exciting sporting events coming up in Term 2! These include, Sports Crew training and Year 4 Indoor Athletics.

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Vacancy for a Midday Meals Supervisor Catering - Part-time

We are seeking an adaptable, flexible Midday Meals Supervisor. You will be joining a flexible team who are happy to work with any year group across the school from Reception to Year 6. The role will require a sense of humour and a genuine interest in working with our lovely children. Our MMS staff supervise children on the playground, initiate and facilitate games and the use of play equipment, supervise and support pupils eating lunch and wipe tables. You will also deal with minor playground incidents and feed back information to class teachers as necessary. Training is provided where necessary and our MMS are supported by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.



The role is from 12 noon until 1.15pm Monday to Friday, term time only. The pay scale is initially Band 3, Point 8 of the Fulston Manor Academies Trust Scale (approximately £8.17/hour).

Our school is committed to the safeguarding of pupils and this post will be subject to satisfactory references and DBS check.

Visits to the school are encouraged and all applications must be made on the school application form with an accompanying letter. Applications by email will be accepted. Please contact the school office to arrange an appointment. For further information, or to submit an application, please contact Mrs Sarah Drury on office@southavenue.kent.sch.uk



School Uniform

Please can we ask that you check that all your child's uniform is named. We are often asked to locate missing uniform, but this can be extremely difficult when it is unnamed. You can use a marker pen, but this will need renewing occasionally as it tends to gradually wash out. We will be putting all lost property out once a term to try to reunite it with its rightful owner!

Road safety and parking outside school

Following on from our application to Kent Highways for a safe crossing outside the school, a survey of pedestrian footfall has been completed and we are awaiting the outcome. In the meantime, please can we ask for your continued support to park carefully and considerately at the busy pick up and drop off times. Please do not park on verges or footpaths and please take care that you are not blocking driveways.



School Payments

Please could you ensure that dinner money is paid in advance, or on the day at the latest. The cost is currently £2.30 per day or £11.50 per week. Please put in an envelope with your child's name and class marked clearly and use the secure payment box in the Junior reception. Please note, only cash is accepted. Alternatively it can be paid by PayPal using: principals-catering.com/accounts/signing Breakfast club money should also be paid in advance for the week (£10/£7.50) or daily (£2 from 7.45am/£1.50 from 8am). Thank you



If you are sending money into school, please ensure envelopes are clearly labelled with your child's name, class & what the money is for i.e. school dinners, trips, clubs etc. and the date(s) the payments relate to.

Many thanks.

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Headteacher Awards

Lots of children have received 'green slips' this term. These are awarded for exceptional effort, behaviour or work, and if a child receives one a postcard is sent home to let parents know.

Well done to: Ethan E, Rebecca C, Callum P, Joshua R, Lexi D, Keaton B, Charlie McK, Jayden A, William V, Levi L, Bexley E, Raphael D-P, Maisie H, Kamilla B, Sadie W, Kara B, Zak B, Bethany J, Codey P, Demi P, Annabelle K, Oliver H, Riley H, Kahina B, Samuel H, Caydon B, Lacey P, Aleksandra K, Isabella M, Danny B, George H, Herbie A, Ellesse R-G, Elena M, Annalise C, Logan E, Robyn C, Scarlett E-F, Konstantina B, Kye H, Anastasia V, Paula G, Gabriela G, Lillie D, Gracie T, Rose B, Ashton T, Miles M, Diana Rose S, Mia B, Scarlett B, Alfie H, Amelia E, Jacob D, Daisy Sz & Aimee S.

Golden Board

These children have had their work displayed on the 'Golden Board' this term: Well done!
Logan B & Archie W



Staff award children for their practical application of any of the 6C's during the week.

Our award winners for this term are: Charlie H, Ruby-Rose G, Ruby L, Tullulah T, Oliver M, Shangith A, Lilly-Grace G, Boyan T, Samuel H, Maisie H, Miles M, Jacob V, Lena B, Semih B, Rebekah T, Kamilla B, Shaneesta N & Lauren R.

Scientist of the week



Kara B, Connor W, Lexi D, Jasmine O, Philip C, Rosie N, Ryan A, Callum R, Connor W, Oliver H, James G, Holli B, Holly A & Kaya P.

Mathematician of the week



Isabelle F, Jarell I, Bailey B, Alfie W, Poppy B, Charlie G, Ben H, Alfie S, Zak B, Rhys A, Bethany M-K, Dylan P, Aliyah-Jay G, Chloe M, Christian G.

WoW Term 6 Figures				Total
	5	6	7	
Peridot	22	23	24	69
Emerald	21	21	21	63
Garnet	20	20	21	61
Topaz	12	14	17	43
Quartz	23	22	23	68
Sapphire	20	19	22	61
Amber	16	22	18	56
Diamond	20	17	20	57
Onyx	20	20	19	59
Tanzanite	21	20	20	61
Opal	18	21	15	54
Amethyst	18	12	16	46
Pearl	12	19	19	50
Ruby	15	17	14	46

Congratulations to Peridot class

This term's
Walk on Wednesday Challenge
winners!
A massive thank you to all those
who have supported this worthy
initiative.



Collaboration, Commitment, Community & Challenge

Attendance

We have been providing weekly information on the WhatSAP about our attendance progress. You will be aware that we are striving for 100% attendance as a whole school target this year. This term we have achieved **96.96%**. An enormous thank you for all of your support so far, keep up the good work. Just to update you regarding the rewards on offer this year:

- ✓ 100% attendance in any 1 term – children will be invited to a reward afternoon in school.
- ✓ 100% attendance for a full academic year – all names will be entered into a raffle and 1 name pulled out to win an amazing prize.
- ✓ 100% attendance for a full academic year – all children will be invited to attend an end of year mystery event.

The more the children are in school, the greater the academic progress they will make. If you encounter any difficulties regarding your child's attendance then please do not hesitate to contact Mrs McAvoy, Attendance Officer or Mrs Telford our Wellbeing Leader.



Poppies will be on sale in school from Monday 29th October (for a small donation). Also pencils, erasers, rulers, pencil sharpeners etc. – all just 50p each!
All proceeds to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Dates for your diary!



Monday 29th October

Wednesday 31st October

Tuesday 6th November

Monday 12th November

Tuesday 13th November

Wednesday 14th November

Thursday 22nd November

Monday 26th November

Tuesday 27th November

Wednesday 28th November

Thursday 29th November

Thursday 6th December

Friday 7th December

W/C 10th December

Monday 17th December

Tuesday 18th December

Wednesday 19th December

Thursday 3rd January 2019

Friday 4th January

Monday 7th January

Start of Term 2

Deadline for secondary school applications

Halloween Disco YR/Y1 2-3pm; Y2, Y3 & Y4 3.30-4.30pm; Y5/Y6 4.45-5.45pm

Parent Consultations (4-7pm)

Parent Consultations (3.30-5pm)

Remembrance Day

Y3 K'Nex Challenge

Y4 K'Nex Challenge

Y6 visit to Dover Castle

KS2 Family Trust Assembly

Trust Day –SCHOOL CLOSED

KS1 Family Trust Assembly

Open morning for new Reception pupils (September 2019) 9.30-11am

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YR, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4 & Y5 Flu immunisation – nasal spray

Christmas Fair (2.30-4.30pm)

KS1 Christmas Performances

KS2 Carol Concert at St Michael's Church - parents invited (9.45-10.30am)

Christmas Dinner - Principals Catering

Whole school Jack & the Beanstalk Panto – (Swallows Leisure Centre)

LAST DAY OF TERM 2 (School finishes at 1.30pm)

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Start of Term 3



Additional Staff Development Days for 2018/19 – Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July 2019