



# South Avenue Primary School

South Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4SU

Telephone: 01795 477750

Email: [headteacher@southavenue.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@southavenue.kent.sch.uk)

Head of School: Miss Tracy Cadwallader

20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

We have made it to the end of another 'bizarre' school year! We sadly had to isolate different year groups throughout the year, but with changes happening in schools guidance, we hope that this type of isolation will not be needed again.

You will be aware that this year we are losing some staff as they move onwards and upwards in their careers or family lives.

Mrs Seymour has been with us for the last 2.5 years, leading our phonics across the infant classes. She has worked very hard with the team and helped us see an increase in our phonics screening results. She has, since our return from the first lockdown, been supporting children filling the gaps in their phonics knowledge. She has achieved positive changes at South Avenue that have been recognised by the English Hub and is leaving us to support many other schools to improve their phonics.

Mrs Goatham, who has been an integral part of our nurture programme and has supported many children and adults over the last 4 years, is leaving us to work more specifically with children with additional needs. She has made very positive changes to the lives of many children at South Avenue and the school has learnt very much from her skills and knowledge.

Miss Woods started here as a TA. She has worked with children who have a speech and language need and we have supported her on her own learning journey culminating in her qualifying two years ago as a qualified teacher. She has worked in many year groups and has supported many children throughout her time. We wish Miss Woods the best of luck as she takes the next step in her own development.

Mrs Livesey is returning to the classroom in September following her maternity leave. This means that we say goodbye to Mr Bidwell. He has been working in Year 5 and has supported the children in the class through the pandemic and lockdowns. Mr Bidwell will be continuing his teaching journey at a local school.

Mrs White – known to the children as the cooking teacher – has been at South Avenue for over 20 years and has decided that the time has come to retire. Her fabulous treats – Beetroot Chocolate Muffins for one, will be missed by the adults as well as the children.

Mrs Babutunde joined us as an HLTA this year and has been a fabulous support, covering Miss Admans maternity for us. However, there is clearly something catching in that classroom as she now begins her own maternity leave. We wish her well for the future.

*Collaboration, Challenge, Community, Courage, Commitment, Creativity*

We also lose, Miss Byrne (Year R), Miss Whitmore (Year 1) and Miss Elliott (Year 3). They have been supporting specific children within their year groups, this year. We wish them all the best for the future.

As every year we must say goodbye to our Year 6 children. We have managed at the end of this term to make sure they have had some fun with their day trip to Bewl Water and after school party where many staff and children enjoyed a soaking at the annual water pistol fight and ended the day with a fish/sausage/chicken and chip supper. We will miss each and every one of the children and wish them all the very best at secondary school and in their future pursuits. We hope they will come back and see us soon.

We have looked through the answers to the questionnaire we sent out and having listened to what you said, we will be keeping some aspects of the changes to our school due to Covid and have noted where you feel we as a school could do better.

In regards to what you would like to keep, we have been able to accommodate the following:

- PE kit will be worn to school on PE days. We have seen less lost property this year and have been able to spend more time on the activity of PE rather than changing into PE kit. We have also had more room in the lockers due to this which in turn has made the school tidier.
- We will allow children to return to school with bags. They only require the bag to carry their water bottle, reading book and reading record. Therefore we ask you to consider the size of bag which your child brings, especially for Key Stage 2, as it will need to fit into their lockers along with their coat.
- The one-way system across the infant site has also proven positive. Year R will continue to enter through gate 1 via the driveway near Busy Bees and will exit via the gate leading to year 1 and out through gate 2. Only parents of children in Year R will be allowed in the sunshine area outside these classrooms, this route will be one way only and not to be used by adults with no children in year R.

Other changes post COVID for September 2021 are:

- Year 1 and 2 parents to enter via gate 4 near the main entrance and leave via the gates in the hedges, or vice versa.
- All children in Years 3-6 will enter and leave via gate 5, as we used to. Adults accompanying these children can walk onto the playground to drop off their child and to collect at the end of the day.
- We have explored the staggered start that we have been using, as this was also mentioned as something parents would like to keep. Sadly, we cannot continue this, therefore, we will revert to our morning drop off between 8.45am – 8.55am and collect at 3:15pm for all year groups. Gates will open 10 minutes prior to drop off and collection times.
- Breakfast Club will be in place from the start of Term 1. It will open from 7.45am and the final drop off time is 8.00am. We will be continuing with the booking process for this, all bookings needing to be made in advance and only accepting payment via Parent Pay. From September the cost will be £3.50 per day. Booking forms can be found on the school web site.
- After School Club will resume from the start of Term 1. Pick up will continue to be 5.30pm as we will, with our growing numbers, continue in the infant hall. All bookings will have to be made in advance with payments being made via Parent Pay. The cost from September will be £7.50 per session.
- Children will no longer be in 'bubbles'.
- Staff will not be required to wear face coverings or remain 2 metres distant outside of the classroom.
- Two year groups will be together in the dining hall at lunchtime.
- Key stage and whole school assemblies will resume with all children together in the school hall.

These changes for September are dependent on whether we are given further guidance during the summer break. Last year we did not receive updated guidance until the bank holiday weekend prior to the start of Term 1, so we apologise in advance if we need to change the above information at the last minute.

The children this year have been amazing. They have had to deal with lockdowns and isolations, missing their friends and their learning. They have worked so hard and we have been amazed at their resilience, adaptability and ability to bounce back. We are very proud of all of them and with this in mind wanted to show them our appreciation of all they have been through. Therefore, we arranged inflatables to be shared with all of the children on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July. We would like to thank D&T Bouncy Castles for again supporting us with amazing inflatables at a truly fabulous cost. Without their support we could not have given the children such a fantastic experience.



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your ongoing support this year. Your supportive comments have kept us going!

In addition, I am sure you would like to join me in thanking all of the wonderful staff here at South Avenue for their loyalty and dedication to the children, whether this is supporting parents and the host of administrative tasks required for the smooth, every day running of the school, supporting the children's wellbeing, overseeing dinner times, keeping our site clean and safe and let's not forget the teaching!

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and sunny summer and look forward to welcoming you all back on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Cadwallader'.

Miss T Cadwallader  
Head of School