



South Avenue Primary School

End of Term 6 Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

Wow, so here we are already, at the end of another academic year and what a busy year of learning it has been. The children have enjoyed trips to Harry Potter World, London Zoo, Kent Life, Wingham Wildlife Centre, Belmont House and the 1940's House. At Christmas we enjoyed going to the pantomime Cinderella and our Choir Club took part in Young Voices – *the largest school choir in the world* – at the O² Arena. This Term, Y6 have had a series of *Wicked Wednesday* trips to Chessington World of Adventure, Clip and Climb, Go Ape, Bowling and a picnic in the park.

In School, we welcomed Creepy Claws, the Wild Classroom, KiC Theatre and Jurassic George – an animatronic dinosaur! This term, YR had a visit from the Ambulance Service and Fire Brigade and we have had whole school assemblies from National Railways and a local Librarian. I have been so proud of the children's behaviour during these enrichment opportunities and feedback from organisers has been very complimentary, citing how lovely it has been to see how engaged the children are in their learning.

On Tuesday, the whole school greatly enjoyed our very own SAPS Got Talent! With a wonderful variety of performances from individuals and groups – pupils and staff alike - including a very special performance from Mr Savva and Mr Linton. Huge congratulations to our winner *Roberto* (Robert 4B) whose keyboard skills almost outshone the likes of Elton John!

I was delighted to welcome our families to our Sports Day in Term 5 and our recent Summer Fair – despite the early rain, we were blessed with sunshine for the majority of the afternoon. Thank you to our families for your donations of bottles, raffle prizes and cakes – your generosity was hugely appreciated. I would like to thank you too, for your patience and understanding on the day as I know how busy it was in the hall. Thank you also to Mrs Purves and Mrs Dengate and their dedicated PTFA team for putting on a fabulous fair – it was lovely to see everyone enjoying a burger and the stalls and it truly was a fun and friendly affair – The Cake Stall, *Bottle bola* and Soak-the-Teacher were, as always, hot favourites!



It was with an immense sense of pride that I watched the Year 6 production of *Matilda* – both the staff organising the event and the children taking part, in whatever guise, had put in countless hours of rehearsal which clearly shone through in the performance itself. All pupils across the school had the opportunity to watch the show and it was lovely to see so many of our Year 6 families attending to support their children at the end of their Year 6 journey.

I am very grateful to our Head Pupils, Mia and Emily and Vice Head Pupils, Archie and Annabelle for their excellent work over this year – they have been a real credit to our school. Thank you to all our pupils who make coming to work each day a joy, because it is for you that we are all here, to help you succeed and be the very best that you can be.

Thank you so much to the volunteers who give their time to come in to school to listen to the children read, support in the classrooms and help with the PTFA and a special thank you to Frankie and Poppy, our volunteer reading dogs who come into school each week with Miss Green, to support the children and always behave impeccably! Thank you to you all, your time and support really is invaluable.

To the staff at South Avenue, I thank you all for being such an incredible team, always committed and passionate about the welfare and learning of our whole school community.



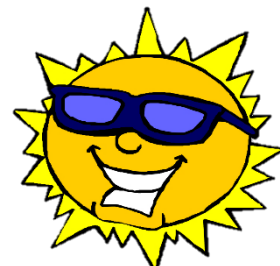
We say goodbye to Miss Johnson, Mrs Hopkins, Mrs Friday and Mrs Kerswill. We wish them all well in their futures, be it taking on a new and exciting new role or relaxing in their retirement. A massive thank you to them for their hard work and dedication to the children and families of South Avenue – we will miss you.

We also say goodbye to our amazing Year 6 pupils. I have loved watching them develop and grow from Reception to the fantastic ambassadors for South Avenue that they are. They should all be very proud of all their achievements. We wish them all the best as they move into secondary school where I know they will continue to shine.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and hot (but not too hot!) summer break. Stay safe, have fun and we look forward to seeing you on our return on Monday 4th September.

Warmest wishes

MISS J. CAWTHRA
Head of School



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Some of you may have noticed that our **sensory garden** looks a bit different. During the half term, we were very fortunate and have received lots of help from different companies to develop our sensory garden further. Wickes donated some playing sand and Morrisons gave us some compost and flowers. Our PTFA gave us some money to buy a water feature, a fire pit and some garden tools that children can use in the garden. UK Power Networks spent a day during the half term, removing the bricks, building the flower beds and the seating area. We would like to thank everyone that has helped create a space for our children to use to support their emotional regulation. This space is already a very popular place for our children and we would like to use it to develop their social skills, curiosity and engagement with nature.



South Avenue Primary School's Sensory Garden



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The year has flown by so quickly, we can't believe we are now at the end of another school year. The children that attend ASC enjoy the social aspect; it is lovely to see reception children playing with the older year groups, they all mix well with each other.

We will be saying goodbye to the Year 6 pupils who have attended since we started the ASC and want to wish them all the best in their future, we will miss you all.

This term, we made lovely cookies for Father's Day; we asked the children to make a cookie to look like their dads, can you see a resemblance in the photos anyone?

We have made Pizza which the children loved making and deciding what to put on them, we hope they enjoyed eating them.

Mrs Friday is retiring at the end of Term 6 and Mrs Musha is going to be stepping away from ASC. Miss Leadbetter and Mrs Birchmore will continue to support the children from Term 1.

If you would like to book your child into Breakfast Club or After School Club, please use the links below:-

[Breakfast Club](#)

[After School Club](#)



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Year R absolutely loved their trip to Wingham. They particularly enjoyed looking at the dinosaurs and playing with the large eggs. Playing in the amazing park was a highlight as well as hearing the lion's roar.



We were so lucky to have a fire engine visit Reception. The children were given a tour, were able to sit inside, heard the siren and even had a go at using the water hose!



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Year 1 had a wonderful school trip to Belmont House and Gardens. The gardeners gave us a tour teaching us all about the different kind of fruits, vegetables and flowers that they grow there. We really loved seeing the rare flowers, looking at the tadpoles and newts and finding all of the hidden willow creatures. We particularly enjoyed having our picnic all together and watching the herd of cows while we ate.



Year 2 have been busy writing a set of instructions on how to make a jam sandwich. They really enjoyed following their own instructions and getting to try their sandwich. This helped them to understand the importance of instructions being precise.



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Puff, 3D's hamster, has been busy learning so much this term! He now knows all about Ancient Egypt, Africa, writing and performing a play, angles and fractions! To name but a few...



When Year 3 were learning about the Ancient Egyptians we undertook our very own mummification experiment and had lots of fun!



We also used chalks to create our own African savannah sunset pictures featuring animal silhouettes.



We also had a wonderfully wild time at Wingham Wildlife Park.



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In Term 5, Year 4 had the amazing opportunity to go to London Zoo for the day. As a part of our learning this year, we studied Rainforests and Under the Sea, in addition to this we have also studied animal classification and habitats as a part of our science lessons.

We thought where better to go than a zoo that has a simulated rainforest section and an aquarium! We were able to see so many magnificent animals such as giraffes, monkeys, sloths, penguins, lions, tigers and zebras to name just a few. As well as this, we ventured through the reptile and amphibian house, checking out all the scaly, squishy creatures and some of us were even daring enough to enter the spider lair. The day was truly enjoyed by all, the scenery was just breath-taking, and the animals were jaw-droppingly fantastic!



Year 5 ventured on a trip to Harry Potter Studios, where they stepped on to authentic sets, discovered the magic behind spellbinding special effects and explored the behind-the-scenes secrets of the Harry Potter film series. They discovered the iconic Hogwarts Great Hall and explored the Forbidden Forest, boarded the original Hogwarts Express at Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ and stepped foot into Gringotts Wizarding Bank, all before wandering down Diagon Alley. Located at the Studios where all eight films were produced, the Studio Tour showed the year group the British talent and artistry that went into the making of the Wizarding World, reliving the magic through the eyes of the filmmakers who brought the books and films to life.



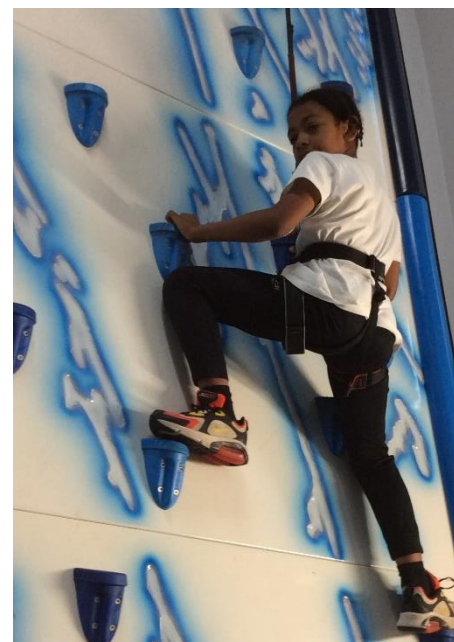
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WOW, what a term it has been for **Year 6**; this year, our children have most definitely loved their 'Wicked Wednesdays'! We launched the trips off with a fantastic day at Chessington World of Adventure in which the children were able to experience some thrill-seeking rides and create memories we hope they will cherish forever. Their dare-devilish ways prepared them for challenging themselves at Clip and Climb and even Go Ape. We were overjoyed in observing their courageous talents and loved the support they provided each other over every hurdle or fear of heights. Not only have they demonstrated superb resilience, but they have also indulged in fun team building activities along the way such as bowling, Cross the Swamp, Tower of Hanoi and Minefield.

Well done Year 6 for embracing every challenge and it has been a pleasure to witness some of the attributes you will apply during your transition to secondary school.

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This term, both our girls and boys football teams competed in the School Games Football final! Both teams were amazing and achieved second place. Charlie and Tiffany also achieved 'Player of the Match' for their games. We are so proud of how well they all played and what great sportsmanship they all showed!



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Our **School Council** recently had a visit from Gordon Henderson, Member of Parliament for Sittingbourne and Sheppey. He spoke to the children about his life in politics and particularly about the role of democracy within the Government. There was then a question and answer session which the children really enjoyed.



Elections have now taken place for the new School Council. Results and pictures will be published in the new term.

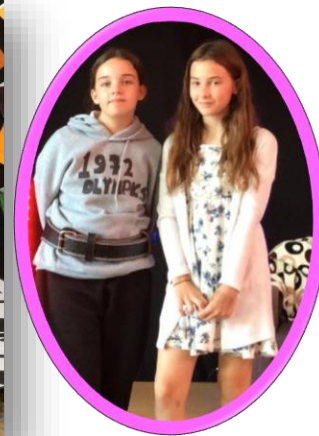
Our **Irish Dance Club** have been working so hard over the past year and last term they performed 'The Wizard of Oz', for the whole school and then again for their families. They were amazing and we were all so proud of them.



Our **Drama Club** pupils had the opportunity to perform the Shakespeare play *As You Like It*, at Oare Gunpowder Works Nature Reserve. This was an open-air production in front of family and friends. It was a truly wonderful experience for the children, who were acting superstars. Thank you to Miss Butler and Miss Walmsley for all their support with this Club



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Year 6 Production 2023

Matilda





Friends of



The Friends of South Avenue Primary School would like to say an enormous **Thank you** for all your incredible support this year.

Throughout the year we have successfully raised an incredible £4000 for our wonderful school. This has been achieved through a hugely successful fundraising calendar which has included Fundraising Fridays, the Christmas Disco, Raffles, Mother's Day Tea in a Box, the Father's Day gift shop, Bag 2 School and the Summer Fair.

From these events we have been able to provide every child in the school with Christmas and Easter gifts as well as commemorative Coronation badges. We have also supported the school in funding the incredibly popular Coronation Day ice creams! Year 1 Role Play areas will also be benefitting from some new panels which can be transformed into kitchens, cafes, offices or a vet's surgery, the only limit here is imagination! We have also supported the development of our wonderful new sensory garden, which is looking glorious.

We are excited to share with you our next big project ...

As a school we are now fundraising to purchase new playground equipment. As you'll be aware some of our existing equipment has seen better days and has now been removed. We would like to raise funds to secure new and improved play equipment for all our children to benefit from. Children learn through play, they learn to socialise, take safe risks and build physical strength as well as developing imagination skills as they devise new games. With an enriching playground we can support the development of every aspect of the children's learning. Not to mention that it's just great fun! To reach this goal we will need to raise considerable funds so we have a big task ahead of us!

If you are interested in supporting us we'd love to hear from you. It might be you could help at big events every now and again, or you know a business who would like to support us, or you'd like to be a full member helping us with the planning and organising of events. Please do get in touch.

We would like to give a special mention to our amazing parents who have volunteered with us so generously throughout the year. An enormous thank you to Jo Warner, Laura David and Hannah Boorman for their ongoing support. Thank you for being our 'dream team'!

Keep your eyes peeled for our upcoming events, these will include an adult's quiz night and a Halloween pyjama party and disco. We will also be hosting a Christmas Craft Fair (we know, it's early to be thinking about the festive season) in December. If you or someone you know would like to have a stall at this event do get in touch!

If you have any questions about any Friends matters please contact us on

ptfa@southavenue.kent.sch.uk

On Instagram and Facebook at: @fmatssouthavenue

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Here are just a few of our talented children (and staff!) performing in the finale in front of the whole school and a panel of judges. With special thanks to our school governor, Mr Johnson for giving his time to the judging panel. All those that took part were absolutely amazing but there could only be one winner - Roberto - who was presented with a small trophy, certificate and voucher for his sensational self penned music.

Big thanks go to D & T Bouncy Castles who once again provided us with some fantastic inflatables. All children had the opportunity to enjoy these as a way of staff thanking the children for all of their hard work this year. All children in Rochester House had an additional bounce as they were the winning House, this year. We'd also like to thank Jason, at Timpson's in the Forum for engraving, free of charge, our House Shield.



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Dates for your diary!

Monday 4th September 2023
Thursday 7th September
Friday 20th October

Start of Term 1
Kent Test
End of Term 1

Monday 30th October
Tuesday 5th December
Friday 15th December

Start of Term 2
Whole school flu vaccinations
End of Term 2

Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Start of Term 3



After school clubs.

The After School Activities Clubs have now come to an end for this academic year. They have been a great success and children have learnt so many new skills as well as having fun! There will be a Clubs letter going out in the first week back to school in September, which will inform you of the Clubs for Terms 1 and 2. Thank you to those parents who completed the Clubs survey. We will hopefully be able to continue with lots of our popular Clubs and add on some new Clubs too.

It has been another successful year for our **Choir Club**. They finished with a performance for their families, showcasing their amazing vocal talents. A big thank you to Mrs. Patching and Mrs. Birchmore for coaching them throughout the year.



