



South Avenue Primary School Newsletter Term 1



Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

As we come to the end of the first term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful things we have achieved together over the past few weeks.

I am pleased to say that the children have settled well and really found their stride. They have all worked incredibly hard and have settled into their routines beautifully. It's wonderful to see their progress and their growing confidence in the classroom. You were all given the opportunity to meet the class teacher at the beginning of term and we were delighted that so many of you attended. You will be given the opportunity to meet them again next term when we arrange our parent evenings.

The children have taken part in many activities throughout the term, which have been shared with you in this newsletter, but I would like to mention personally the Harvest celebrations we shared last week. It was a great success, and it was heart-warming to see all the children come together to celebrate. The singing was absolutely delightful, and it was especially lovely to see our EYFS children joining in with such enthusiasm. They all did such a fantastic job! Your generous donations were greatly appreciated and have made a real difference to those in need—thank you so much for your kindness and support.

Looking forward to Term 2 this will no doubt be equally as busy, coming up we have: Nativities from KS1, Carol Service for KS2 (pupils only), parent evenings, a Christmas Market organised by the PTFA on Saturday 30th November plus lots of new learning for the children to venture through.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you for your continued support, and I look forward to everything we will achieve together in the terms ahead.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break. I hope the sun continues to shine for us all, we will see you when we return on 4th November 2024.

Kind regards,

Miss Cadwallader
Head of School





Calling all writers young and old!

As part of our DOJO reward challenge, we are introducing a writing competition for all of our budding writers. There will be competitions run three times each school year for the whole family to take part in. The competitions may be to write a story or poem, newspaper article or make an information booklet about something that interests you as a family... it may even be a film review of a film you have all enjoyed.

A winner will be chosen from each year group followed by an overall winner from each Key Stage. All children submitting an entry, and winners, will be awarded those all-important DOJOs while the overall winners will win a special prize and be published on the school website.

This term, you are being asked to write a SPOOKY HALLOWEEN story of no more than 100 (KS1) or 200 (KS2) WORDS or a mixture of picture and text (EYFS). You can use the picture as a starting point or just use your imagination! It would be wonderful for the whole family to get involved so do please have a go! Entry forms will be sent home very soon!!

Closing Date: MONDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2024 - PLEASE HAND ANY ENTRIES TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASS TEACHER ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE.



Listen, Encourage, Ambitious, Resilient & Respectful, Nurturing

Exciting News: Our Updated Behaviour Policy!

We're very excited to share that our updated Behaviour Policy is now available on our school website! Below is a quick summary of how we're promoting positive behaviour and supporting our children at South Avenue Primary School.

Our Updated Behaviour Policy!

At South Avenue Primary School, we're dedicated to creating a positive, safe, and supportive environment where every child can thrive. Our updated Behaviour Policy helps children build healthy relationships, regulate their emotions, and grow through the Zones of Regulation program, which is part of our learning from EYFS to Year 6.



Positive Behaviour = Rewards!



We celebrate and reward good behaviour in lots of ways! Every child can earn Special Mentions and Class Dojo points when they demonstrate our school values: Listen, Encourage, Ambitious, Resilient, Respectful, and Nurturing. Classes can also work together to earn Shields. Once enough shields are collected, the whole class enjoys a fun reward! Some previous favourites have been extra playtime, movie afternoons, or even a class campfire with marshmallows.

What Happens When Things Go Wrong?

We understand that sometimes behaviour might fall short, and when that happens, we use a "Size of the Problem" approach. This means our responses are tailored based on whether the problem is small, medium, big or huge. Small issues, like not paying attention, might just need a gentle reminder, while bigger issues like fighting will involve more serious conversations and possibly time away from the classroom. No matter the size of the problem, we focus on helping children understand their actions and using restorative practices to reflect and repair relationships.

Supporting All Children

We recognise that some children may have additional needs, and we are fully committed to providing the right support to help them succeed. Our aim is to ensure that every child feels safe, valued, and capable of learning and growing in a positive environment.



Playtime Survey

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our recent playtime survey! Your feedback has been invaluable in helping us understand how we can continue to improve playtimes for our children. Here are some key insights from the survey:



- **The Importance of Playtime:** Overwhelmingly, you agree that playtime is "Extremely important" for your children's well-being and development.
- **Children's Enjoyment:** Most of you reported that your children are enjoying playtimes, with many describing it as "good" or even "brilliant."
- **Current Playtime Setup:** Many of you felt that the current structure of playtime is "just right" and working well.
- **Muddy Clothes and Minor Accidents:** Most of you are supportive or neutral about children getting muddy or having minor bumps, recognising that these are part of active play.

We are also excited to share your top seven suggestions from the survey:

1. More sports equipment to play with - 60 votes
2. Music to dance to - 45 votes
3. Ball games (tennis, volleyball, basketball) - 44 votes
4. Climbing frames - 37 votes
5. Social areas - 33 votes
6. Lots of junk to play with (cardboard boxes, tyres, material) - 28 votes
7. Scooters and skateboards - 27 votes



In response to your feedback, we intend to introduce scooters, skateboards, and play materials like tyres and pallets in Terms 4 and 5. Additionally, we are happy to inform you that music for dancing has already been implemented to enhance our play environment.

We are also actively looking into securing more sports equipment to ensure our children have the best opportunities for active play. To support these initiatives, we welcome donations of any:



- Sports equipment
- Balls
- Scooters
- Skateboards
- Materials for building mud kitchens
- Old Brushes

Your support makes a significant difference in creating a more engaging and enjoyable playtime for our children. If you have items to donate or would like to contribute in any way, please feel free to reach out to us at ssava@southavenue.kent.sch.uk



Listen, Encourage, Ambitious, Resilient & Respectful, Nurturing

We are proud to introduce our Wellbeing Ambassadors!

Mrs Williams, our Wellbeing and Mental Health Co-Ordinator has been busy this term with our Wellbeing Ambassadors Club. The children have been making talk time boxes for our classes, learning Yoga and meaningful emotion words to share with their classes. The children are proud to wear their Wellbeing Ambassador badges and have made Miss Cadwallader, Mrs Telford and Miss Milner honorary members of the Club. The children will continue to meet and support across the school, spreading all the great wellbeing work that is happening.



Katie P, Antonio K, Ruby C, Amy T, Noah-Zayne C, Delilah-Louise P, Tiffany-Rose W, Keyan J, Aris T, Rocco L & Pollyanna C



World Mental Health Day - 10th October 2024

This year South Avenue Primary took part in wearing all things yellow in order to raise awareness for World Mental Health Day. Right now, the world is a really tough place for children and young people to grow up in. We want young people to know that they don't have to go through this alone. Things can get better. Thank you to all the children who took part!

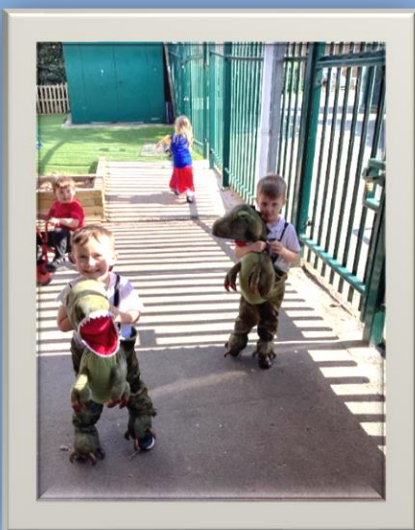
Because we stand brighter, together.



Listen, Encourage, Ambitious, Resilient & Respectful, Nurturing

Year R

Reception have enjoyed their first term at South Avenue. They have spent lots of time exploring their new environment and developing friendships with their peers. They have made us very proud in how they have settled and we look forward to seeing how their journey progresses.



Listen, Encourage, Ambitious, Resilient & Respectful, Nurturing

This term in our topic *Where do I live?* Year 1 been looking at our surrounding environment, where we live and have been learning about Sittingbourne and it's history. As part of this we visited the local Sittingbourne Heritage Museum where the children were given the opportunity to ask questions about Sittingbourne and it's past and explore some artefacts from the past. This included some Roman artefacts, objects from the war and a variety of different items that have been donated from the past 100 years. The children had a fantastic time and were all so curious about the different objects that were used in the past.



Year 2 have spent a couple of weeks practising really hard to learn the words and Makaton for the Harvest Samba which they performed at the Harvest Festival. Year 2 loved practising the actions and singing along to the song during their rehearsals. On Friday morning, Year 2 began to feel a little nervous, but when it was their turn to perform, they loved every second and the children have said it was amazing, fantastic and exciting!



Listen, Encourage, Ambitious, Resilient & Respectful, Nurturing

Year 3 have been very busy settling in to Junior school life and have been having lots of fun! We have been learning about rivers, waterfalls and mountains in the UK and around the world in our geography lessons and we can now identify their different features. Can you tell your parents what the start and end of a river is called and what rivers flow into it? In our Geography lessons we created our own drainage basins and 3D waterfalls. It was great fun!



This term, **Year 4** have been learning about Romans- Invaders and Settlers. Next term, we look forward in continuing to explore this topic with a exciting Roman Day planned. More information to follow...



Listen, Encourage, Ambitious, Resilient & Respectful, Nurturing

In Year 5, the class took on the exciting project creating their own Papier Mache masks.

First, they layered the strips of paper over a balloon to create the base. Once the structure was ready, they painted their masks with vibrant colours and patterns.

Each mask was unique, reflecting their own ideas and interpretation of Mayan masks.



Year 6 Job roles launched in Term 1!

Well done to our Year 6 pupils for their efforts in achieving key roles across the school. This term, Mrs Telford provided training to all the prefects, buddies and sports leaders to ensure outdoor play times were effective and purposeful for other children within the school. This highlighted how their new role in Year 6 would support other children with games to play but also in offering a 'helping hand' for when they needed to be listened to. Our prefects will soon be assisting Miss Cadwallader with whole school events such as completing readings in the local church at Christmas and in time assisting with whole school tours to visitors.

Head pupil:

'I was really happy and surprised when I got the role and I couldn't wait to start.' - Daisy (6M)



Buddy quotes:

'I enjoy being a Buddy because I get to meet and help new people.' Olivia (6M)

'I enjoy being a Buddy because I love helping the Early Years.' Khloe (6L)



Year 6 Job roles launched in Term 1!

We are incredibly proud of our sports leaders and librarians. They have risen to the challenge of keeping resources across the school well-organised, tidy and provided support to other children with sharing of the equipment at play times. We couldn't be prouder of their efforts so far and we are looking forward to seeing them progress in their role in the future.



Sports Leader quote: 'I am really looking forward to helping in P.E. and especially Sports Day.' - Aris (6L)



Librarian quote: 'I enjoy organising the books and giving the library a new look.' - Maria (6M)

Listen, Encourage, Ambitious, Resilient & Respectful, Nurturing

School Council members had an amazing day in London, visiting the Houses of Parliament. They were given a tour, where they learnt all about the iconic building and how the present Parliament works. They were able to take part in a fun workshop too. It was a very busy day and they completed 10,500 steps with all the walking that they did. They were exemplary representatives of South Avenue Primary School.



This term the children have been working really hard on their attendance at school. We know that they could not do this without your support! Today we gave out an outstanding 260 certificates to celebrate those children with amazing attendance and most of these were for 100% attendance. This is half of our school achieving this superb attendance.

All those who have 100% in term 1 will have their names placed in the draw for the end of the academic year to be in with a chance of winning the £100 voucher for 'The Light'.

A new term awaits and we can't wait to see just how many of our children can achieve outstanding attendance in term 2. Don't forget we wipe the slate clean and start afresh.

Listen, Encourage, Ambitious, Resilient & Respectful, Nurturing



CRAFTS - ARTS - FOOD

SOUTH AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL'S

CHRISTMAS MARKET

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2024

10AM - 2PM

£10 PER STALL

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK A STALL CONTACT:

ptfa@southavenue.kent.sch.uk

A festive pink poster for a Christmas Market. It features illustrations of Santa Claus, reindeer, snowflakes, and candy canes. The text is centered and reads: 'CRAFTS - ARTS - FOOD', 'SOUTH AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL'S', 'CHRISTMAS MARKET', 'SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2024', '10AM - 2PM', '£10 PER STALL', 'FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK A STALL CONTACT:', and the email address 'ptfa@southavenue.kent.sch.uk'.

Borden Bees

J. & M. Davies
07770 398 307
info@bordenbees.co.uk

Pure local honey
Swarm collection

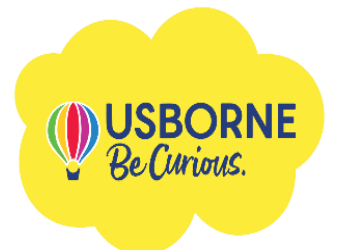
Quality artisan hive/bee products
Bee sales

A yellow rectangular logo for 'Borden Bees'. It features a bee icon in a hexagon on the left and a beehive icon in a hexagon on the right. The text includes the name 'Borden Bees', the contact information for J. & M. Davies, and descriptions of their products: 'Pure local honey', 'Swarm collection', 'Quality artisan hive/bee products', and 'Bee sales'. There are also small social media icons at the bottom left.

Neck Bandy

Beloved Crafts

[beloved_craft](#)
 Beloved Crafts

A circular logo for 'Beloved Crafts' featuring a beehive icon.

We are thrilled to share that we are hosting our second Christmas Craft Market! There will be a wonderful range of festive gifts ranging from sweets, pocket money toys, embroidered gifts, jewellery, handmade toys, cards and much more all from local businesses.

The PTFA will also be providing refreshments.

Listen, Encourage, Ambitious, Resilient & Respectful, Nurturing

Dates for your diary!



Monday 4th November

Tuesday 5th November

Wednesday 6th November

Thursday 7th November

Monday 11th November

11th -15th November

Tuesday 12th November

Wednesday 13th November

Thursday 14th November

Friday 15th November

Wednesday 20th November

Monday 25th November

Tuesday 26th November

Thursday 28th November

Saturday 30th November

9th-13th December

Thursday 12th December

W/c 16th December

Wednesday 18th December

Thursday 19th December

Friday 20th December

Monday 6th January

Start of Term 2

Primary Applications for Reception 2025 opens

New Reception classes 2024 Tours (By appointment only)

New Reception classes 2024 Tours (By appointment only)

Remembrance Day

New Reception classes 2024 Tours (By appointment only)

Anti Bullying Week - Choose Respect

New Reception classes 2024 Tours (By appointment only)

New Reception classes 2024 Tours (By appointment only)

Whole School Flu Immunisation

Children In Need Day (more details to follow)

New Reception classes 2024 Tours (By appointment only)

Year 3 trip to Gurdwara

Staff Development Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations

South Avenue Christmas Market

Christmas Story Writing Week

Whole school Christmas Dinner

Year R and KS1 Nativity (a.m & p.m)- more details to follow

Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 trip to the cinema

YR, Y1 & Y2 trip to the cinema

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

Start of Term 3

Remaining Staff Development Days for 2024/25 - Monday 21st & Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Road safety and parking outside school

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. Can we also remind people to think speed when driving along South Avenue.



Don't forget:

Our Term 2 Activities Clubs will begin week commencing 4th November and will run for 6 weeks.

