

Everyone at Southover achieves their potential, is valued for who they are and knows they belong

Southover CE Primary School

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At Southover Church of England Primary school:

We all work together —children, parents, staff, Trinity Church and the community.

We inspire each other to learn through a vibrant curriculum, set within a safe environment that meets the needs of all children.

We gain strength from the love of God and our love for one another; we feel we belong to Trinity Church.

We value: Trust, Compassion, Friendship, Hope, Thankfulness and Fellowship.

We have a healthy mind, body and spirit to allow us to 'Live, Love, Learn'.

Newsletter May 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and the Community of Southover,

Arts Week is in full flow; the teachers have been very creative in their ideas and our guests have helped engage and excite budding artists in all fields. The children looked magnificent on Monday and brightened up the start to the week.

This term we have been talking about our school value, Fellowship where we work together, sharing the journey as we head for the same goal. We have explored this in assemblies thinking about the Allies on VE Day and looking at shrapnel from the war, and at how an orchestra needs to work together to make beautiful music. We have also been talking about The Empowerment Approach, the core of our approach to supporting behaviour, and recognising we need to 'prep for best' to cope with the challenges of the day.

We also hosted the Dogs Trust and Southern Water as they led assemblies this term. The Dogs Trust visited classrooms to support children in feeling comfortable with dogs and Southern Water showed why it is important not to put fat or wipes into the drains. The children in KS2 came home with a kitchen pot for waste fat.

Our fabulous Year 6 children have completed their SATS last week and have approached them positively and ensured they performed at their best. We are so proud of them all and know that SATS are only one measure of how well children are doing. We equally value the arts, music, sports and wellbeing.

Continuously Developing the School – part of our School Development Plan We have a healthy mind, body and spirit to allow us to 'Live, Love, Learn'.

Our Diversity group met on Tuesday 29th April to share ideas to improve what we offer in terms of increasing awareness of diversity and ensuring everyone feels valued and knows they belong. We have been working to increase diversity and awareness. If you feel you can add to our ideas then please join in our next meeting on Tuesday 1st July 3:30-4.15pm (with children welcome to sit and read in the library with us).

We were pleased to welcome the Imam from the Brighton mosque who came and talked with Y3/4 about what it is like being a Muslim in England including the logistics of praying at the right times when at school.

Library Pre-School Session – An opportunity for pre-schoolers to use the lovely library and build familiarity with school. Please come along at 9.00-9.30am Friday 6th June and you are welcome to bring a friend.

Potters Lane Safety

The traffic restrictions on Potters Lane have been in place since September and a consultation period has now closed. We are hoping it will become permanent at a meeting in June where objections are being looked at. The restrictions only allow authorised traffic down Potters Lane at drop off and collection times which includes emergency vehicles, staff and residents of the roads in the immediate vicinity.

Enrichment - we *inspire each other* to learn through a *vibrant curriculum*

Book Club were thrilled to host the author Ele Fountain at Southover School as part of the East Sussex Book Awards. We thoroughly enjoyed listening to where Ele got her inspiration from for 'Storm Child' and her journey to becoming an author. The children were brilliantly behaved, asking thoughtful questions and showing off their own general knowledge during the quiz. We have now cast our votes for who we would like to win the Book Awards and are looking forward to going to the ceremony in June.



Sport we have a *healthy mind, body and spirit*

Cricket, netball, basketball, ballet and gym clubs have been running this term and next term sees the swimming pool reopening and sports day (9th July). Please support the school's pool through donations to the FRIENDS. We are the only school in Lewes with a pool and this gives our children a unique opportunity.



Lunchtime Clubs

We are delighted to have a Coding Club running on Wednesday lunchtimes helping create future tech wizards. Would anyone be able to offer an hour a week at lunchtime to run a club? We would love to offer an extra chess club, a library session or a table tennis club. Please let me know.

Curriculum Updates - we *inspire each other* to learn through a *vibrant curriculum*

In Year 6 English lessons, the children have greatly enjoyed choosing something that they would each like to banish into 'Room 101' and have produced some very persuasive writing using anecdotes, humour and exaggeration.

In Year 5, the children have been having fun writing their own rant poems (inspired by 'Television' by Roald Dahl) about various topics like having to do homework! They have been creative with their rhyming couplets and some have even bravely performed what they have written. Both classes thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Anne of Cleves' house; the children got into character in their 'Henry the VIII and his wives' workshop and were super treasure hunters in the rooms that they explored. We were really proud of the children who behaved brilliantly and showed off their fantastic learning that we have done in school during the workshop. Year 5 have also been enjoying becoming designers: they have looked at various fashion designers, looked at fashion through the decades, planned their own outfits and begun to make them, creating their own clothes out of painted and patterned paper!

In Science, Year 5 & 6 have shown great curiosity and spark towards our learning in our Evolution and Inheritance. They have learnt about fish adaptations and designed their own fish and have delved into the interesting world of plant adaptations, carrying out research and designing their own plants based on their learning.



Year 3 and 4 have been exploring the answers to the key question 'How do festivals and worship show what matters to a Muslim?' We were lucky enough to have a visit and an interesting and informative talk from the Imam from Al-Medinah Mosque in Brighton. The pupils asked important questions such as 'how do Muslim children fit their prayers in to their school day' and 'what is going on a pilgrimage like?' It was a fantastic opportunity to further explore their learning in RE this term.

Last week, Year 1 and 2 were intrigued to receive a note informing us that our dragons had been spotted. Using the clues, the children deduced that the dragons were likely in Magpie classroom. Upon their arrival, they discovered a chaotic scene: the classroom had been left in disarray with burnt paper scattered about, glitter trails, colourful feathers, overturned tables and chairs, books strewn on the floor, and the window and gate left ajar. The children were filled with excitement as we speculated on which dragons might have visited. When we returned to our class, the children crafted their own list poems detailing the mischief created by their dragons.



The Heron class have been enjoying going to forest school every Friday this term. They have been toasting marshmallows over fires, making natural clay and designing bug hotels and dens. In Heron class this term we have been learning about animals and their habitats. We have written fact pages, learning interesting facts such as rabbits eat a special green poo or snakes shed their skin! We have had interesting discussions in PSHE about whether or not we should take animals out of the wild to keep as pets inspired by the book *Shhh ... We have a Plan*. We argued that we may be taking the animal away from its friends or its favourite food but we could love it and treat it nicely- so the debate is still open! We came up with fantastic rhymes from the book *Oi Frog!* where we had to find seats that rhymed for different animals, did you know slugs had to sit on plugs? Or dogs had to sit on mats?

Governors News

The governors continue to support the school in various ways to benefit pupils, staff, and the wider community. Governors are also taking the opportunity to support our soon-to-be leavers by observing the Year 6 SATS process this week. A recent review of ours has suggested a succinct version of the school's behaviour policy would be great for parents/carers. We are also working on improving our effectiveness as governors. On this note, if you'd like to learn more about school governors or have any questions about governance, please do contact us and contribute to our effectiveness. Finally, we were very fortunate to be able to have a fascinating and useful online talk from Sam Wass on how the modern world is affecting children. Last term we were reflecting on our school value of trust - the exercise of building trust in our children, teachers, and within our community. Thank you for your ongoing support, and enjoy the upcoming holiday break!

Burt Browne (Vice-Chair)

Office News

When returning a slip for a trip/ consent for a sporting game/ holiday/ medical absence etc they can be popped in the box on the wall beside the office windows.

If you pay for your child's school lunch at Southover can we politely remind you that all school lunches must be paid for in advance and via your online ParentPay account. To ensure your balance is always in credit to cover lunches booked and not to allow your balance to fall into arrears you can set up an alert to keep you updated. Please use the link below to help.

<https://support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/4409658040593-Payer-guidance-How-to-set-up-email-and-text-alerts>

Looking Ahead... (check on the online calendar for all the events)

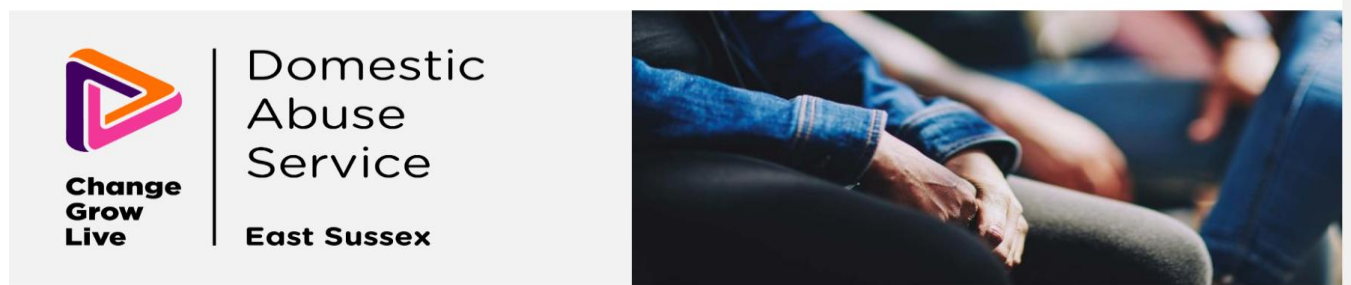
INSET Day –Monday 2nd June.

Sports Day - Wednesday 9th July

Tuesday 22nd July – Last day of the year 1.15pm finish

Community News - *we all work together* –children, parents, staff, Trinity Church and the community.

It was great to have a talk by Professor Sam Wass, Director of the Institute for the Science of Early Years in East London and parent of a child at Southover, who presented some of the latest research on how the rapid changes in today's world are influencing children's brains – and what you as a parent can do to maximise the upsides and minimise the downsides. It covered research on how early technology use impacts children's attention, language, behaviour, and emotional well-being, and some practical tips on helping children to manage transitions between screens and the real world. There was great attendance at the talk and great feedback. Thank you, Sam!



Contact us

If you've been affected by domestic abuse or violence in East Sussex, get in touch to find out more about the help, advice and support available.

Phone: **0300 323 9985**

Email: ESDomesticAbuse.Info@cgl.org.uk

Our Eastbourne office number: **01323 417 598**

Our Hastings office number: **01424 716 629**

In an emergency call the police on 999.

You can also use 101 to give information to the police or make an enquiry.

Domestic Violence at home happens in all school communities. If it is happening to you then you are not an isolated case. Search for: [changeprowlive](#) to find out more

Keeping our children safe - a safe environment that meets the *needs of all children*.

Support for parents

Whatever family life brings, we're here to help

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>

Online Safety

We know how easy it is to give a phone to a child to keep them entertained while waiting somewhere but we have all had to spend time waiting and after a few minutes our creative minds and imagination take over. The value of conversation with children of all ages cannot be underestimated from 0 to 19 and beyond! As teachers we can see the language development in children who have lots of talking opportunities from the day they are born.

We are continuously working to ensure the safety of our children. Please speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Noel Fadden - if you have questions or concerns.

Every visitor needs to sign in at the office. Adults in school with a DBS wear a green lanyard and are able to move about unaccompanied to do their role once signed in. Those with a red lanyard need to have a staff (or DBS cleared volunteer) with them. Adults without a sticker or lanyard should be challenged and taken to the office to sign in.

These are all part of our safeguarding procedures.

Yours sincerely,



Noel Fadden



NSPCC Website and Support

You may be interested in the support that the NSPCC can offer through their website at <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/> In the section on 'Keeping Children safe' they provide a range of information, advice, and child-friendly animations and activities covering areas such as e-safety, anti-bullying, social networking, safe relationships, advice on talking about difficult topics...and much more! They also run a helpline for parents for help and advice, as well as for reporting concerns about children.

Compliments, Comments, Concerns and Complaints! Have you got something positive you would like to say about the school, or a comment you would like to make? Have you got something which is concerning you or an issue need to complain about? If so, please let us know in person, by letter, by phoning the school office or by email. We have set up an email specifically for this which will be monitored only by the head and the Co-Chairs of Governors: cccc@southover.e-sussex.sch.uk

