

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 October 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and the Community of Southover,

This term we have been thinking of the school value of Hope. We start the new school year with a lot of hope and look to ensure everyone achieves their potential with a smile on their faces. The children have started brilliantly and we have welcomed in new children from near and far who have settled so well. The children have shared their hopes, talked about being positive and about working hard to achieve them.

We are delighted to have two new members of staff join us this term. Both may be familiar to some as Lily Edmunds is an ex-pupil who is bringing her energy into Nightingale class on Fridays and Tim Zobbo has rejoined us as a Sports Coach on Thursdays and Fridays with bags of energy too!

We have had extensive work done to the gym block over the summer and the roof has been replaced alongside installation of new windows to keep the building warm and dry. The last bits of scaffolding remain as they add the finishing touches.

We would love to invite others to use our lovely library so we have a pre-schoolers' session on Friday 25th October 9-9:30am. Please come along with any little ones to share a book and enjoy the library experience. This invite is open to all little ones in Lewes so spread the word!



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'.



We are delighted to have a new play trail for the field!!

We have combined resources with Western Road to install a play trail to keep the children active and entertained during lunch times and in PE sessions. We have used a large part of our PE and Sports Grant to build something that should last for many years. Please remember, no use before or after school.

Helping Parents & Carers

We held another very successful SEND Parent/Carer meeting at the end of September where parents/carers got together to hear from the ESPCF (East Sussex Parent Carer Forum), ask questions and hear advice and experiences from others in a safe and supportive environment. We will be holding our next meeting at the end of November. All Welcome!

Keeping our Community Safe- we *inspire each other* to learn within a safe environment that meets the *needs of all children.*

Safer walk to school – Potters Lane Traffic restricted!!

Thank you to our school community for responding so positively. We have had a much safer and enjoyable walk to and from school thanks to the changes on Potters Lane area and the cooperation of the community.

School Streets Celebration Day on Tuesday 10th September was held to celebrate the increased safety of their journey to school. We had a smoothie-making bike and badges for those who walked, scooted or cycled. There was media interest in the project and we featured on the BBC news website and on Danny's show on Radio Sussex and Greatest Hits Radio news. They were impressed by the positive response from all.



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

The term has started with some exciting curriculum events as Y5 & Y6 had an Ancient Greek Day with the Rainbow Theatre coming in to perform with them. Y3/4 have also been immersing themselves in their topic with a visit on the train to Brighton for a Stone Age workshop. We have a fine selection of clubs on offer this term with uptake as high as ever. There may be a waiting list for some clubs so let the office know if you want to join a waiting list.

Harvest time! We have set dates for our Harvest Festival which we will hold in Trinity Church Southover on Tuesday 15th October: 9:30am for KS1 and 2:00pm for KS2. All are welcome to join in the service and to bring in goods for our own 'harvest' for the Lewes Food Banks.

Zoe Short and I attended the Friends AGM last week. We're very fortunate to have an active PTA and Committee. We heard about the fun calendar of events planned for the year and reflected on the many successes from last year. There is a lot of talent and skill amongst the community and this reflects in the Friends Committee. Please join in and add your energy, skills or hands. A little reminder - all parents, carers, and teachers are members of the PTA, and anyone can go to their meetings. Thank you to those who have volunteered to be class reps for this year - if you haven't already, familiarise yourself with your rep and class messaging group. Check out the Friends Newsletter:

<https://www.southoverprimary.co.uk/the-friends-of-southover-primary-school-pta/>



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

Football clubs have been running after school and at lunchtime. The football teams have also played their first matches of the season. We have a girl team and a mixed team playing in the Premier League Primary Stars local competition at Brighton's Elite Training Complex in Lancing. The standard is very high but the children love where their heroes are training and perhaps hope one day to emulate them!

The mixed team were all Y5 and had a tough competition against the Y6 opposition but I see it as preparation for next year when they are a year older.

The girls

Twenty girls and boys from Y5 & Y6 played against LOGS earlier this week. They battled hard and the teams came out second in both games despite having the bulk of the possession. It was great fun and for some children their first game of football for a team.

Office News

If you do not already have a Log in and Password for a 'ParentPay' account for your child, please email the school office and we will issue you with your personal log in details.

Once you have set up your account, information regarding allocating your money to lunches is available on our website. 'ParentPay' is our payment system that we also use for trips as you may already be aware.

If you think you may be entitled to a benefit-related free school lunch, please visit the link below for more information. <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/schools/school-life/school-meals/free-school-meals>

Looking Ahead... INSET Days – Wednesday 6th November and Monday 6th January 2025!

Governors Update - *We all work together* —children, parents, staff, Trinity Church and the community.

A note from the Governing Board

"The governors would like to extend a warm welcome to all the children. Returners and new children, families, and carers. We hope you've been able to enjoy the summer and are looking forward to the year ahead.

The governors have already had a strategy planning meeting for the new academic year with the senior leadership team. We give our thanks to Andrew Barnard who stood down as a governor ahead of the meeting. This was after some 7 years during which Andrew took on the role of being the Local Authority link governor and notably co-chaired the board through last year's successful Ofsted inspection. The strategy meeting concluded with governor roles decided, and committees and panels formed."

Burt Browne

Vice Chair of Governors

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

Intergenerational Project

We are embarking on what promises to be a really positive intergenerational project with the House of Friendship in Lewes. They are an organisation that provides a range of activities and companionship to the older members of our community.

Southover and The House of Friendship are working together to bring generations together for the benefit of both the children and the adults. A group of children visited the House of Friendship on the High Street in Lewes, to meet the adults and take part in games and activities. It is the hope that they will develop relationships and learn from each other as well as developing a joint appreciation of each generation's experiences.



LGB Brass (who taught Y3/4 last year and played to the children at the end of term) are thrilled to be presenting The Snowman with live brass band accompaniment this Christmas. They will have two screenings of the classic Christmas film at All Saints Centre on Sunday 22nd December. Perfect for all the family to get in the festive spirit, or perhaps the ideal opportunity for grandparents to take the little ones whilst parents get all the present wrapping done! Tickets are available now via Ticketsource: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/lgbbrass>

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/>

NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe

I am pleased to let you know that we are participating in the NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. Programme this term. Speak out. Stay safe. is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

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.

Visitors to the school cannot use mobile phones in the building (this includes outside the office) unless guided by staff to a suitable space. If you are entering the school building you must sign in at the office and receive a lanyard. This means you cannot take your child into class if late – please bring them to the office.

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



