

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 February 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and the Community of Southover,

As the first term of 2024 comes to an end, we can reflect on the school value of trust. The success of the school is built on the way children, parents and staff work together. There needs to be a strong level of trust in place for this to work. The parent/carer survey, shared earlier this term, showed that there is a very strong bond between school and home and that the children trust their teachers. The team work can be seen where we have added in 30 glockenspiels to our music resources courtesy of the Friends! We also welcome a new governor to the team: Sam Wass (parent of an EYFS child).

I have been delighted to see the great work the children are doing in school. I see some great writing and they seem to be working hard on their handwriting at home too. Book bags are coming in every day for most children – thank you.

### Library

We are planning to have another pre-school library session on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 9:00-9:30 where you can bring your pre-schoolers in to share a book and enjoy the library experience. This is a great opportunity for children to build familiarity with school.



**STEM at Southover** - we inspire each other to learn through a vibrant curriculum

Following the enormous success of our amazing STEM week in 2022, we are thrilled to announce that we'll be holding another STEM week this year! **From Monday 20th to Thursday 23rd May**, the children will be immersed in the world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths with an exciting array of activities to engage, inspire and enrich their learning.

We are currently at the very early stages of planning this event and are looking for volunteers who would like to get involved. Do you have skills and expertise in Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths? Would you be willing to run a workshop or deliver a presentation about an aspect of STEM or can you recommend someone to us?

We are also looking for additional funding to make the week as exciting and inspirational as possible. Are you able to help us in finding sponsorship, or would your company be interested in sponsoring us?

Please send any expressions of interest to [STEM@southover.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:STEM@southover.e-sussex.sch.uk) at your earliest convenience.

## Smart and Punctual

**Attendance** is a key priority for all children; they need to be in school to learn and to make lasting friendships. Being on time is also key to a good start to the day. Children who arrive before the whistle settle quicker, socialise more and are ready to learn. Please be in school before 8:45am. The gates open at 8:35am and you can leave them in the playground from then.

Please fill in the **Removal from Learning form for all planned absences**. Parent/carer explanation is always needed even though children often tell us why they have not been in school and we record the reasons on the records. Proof of medical appointments needs to be included. This saves the office staff time making phone calls/ emails to chase absences. We will contact families where children's absence is a concern so that their children do not miss out. Holidays will not be authorised and we work with the other schools in Lewes to ensure we keep to the same expectations and get the best attendance for our children.

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

Year 6 have been excelling as scientists and learning about how the human body works: investigating osmosis with the aid of gummy bears and a variety of interesting liquids has been a highlight! Did they expand or contract? They are expressing themselves in creative and imaginative ways in 'Identity Art' and are honing their portrait skills. Inspired by the inventions of Wallace (owner of Grommit), they have created detailed blueprints for their own designs and written explanations of how they work, should you wish to invest in their ideas! Their lindy hop improvisations in dance are full of joy and energy, and their ukulele playing and singing is fantastic - we can't wait for this year's end of year musical!



The children in Year 5 have been flying high in Term 3! They adored doing outdoor crafts, cookery and lighting fires in Forest School; in Science, they started to explore our solar system and made a model to show the relative sizes of the planets using Play Doh and balloons; in English, they designed dragons and developed their factual language and writing, which they used to debate the 'best' dragon; their imagination has run wild writing Poetic Rants on subjects including school and household chores (be warned!); in Geography, they have worked with atlases and maps to learn about mountain ranges and their features - they even made their own contour 'potato' mountains. In Music, they have been learning chords on the ukulele and, in Computing, they have understood what a network is and designed a talking teddy bear. Finally, they have been interested to learn about apartheid while reading Journey to Jo'burg.



In English in Year 3/4 we have been creating comic strips as part of our work on 'Lights on Cotton Rock' and we are finishing the term reporting about Giant Country in the BFG. Pupils have produced some creative and beautiful work! As part of our science work on eating and digestion, Year 3/4 looked at owl pellets which showed us what creatures they had eaten. We found they contained little skulls, jaws and femurs among other tiny bones. We put eggshells in water, coke and orange juice to see what happened over a week. Eggshells are similar to teeth so we thought about what these liquids would do to our teeth. After a week the shells in orange juice and coke were not a pretty sight!

We are having great fun learning our brass instruments and preparing for a concert when we will hopefully all play together. Osprey are learning the baritone horn, Kingfisher the tenor horns and Skylark the trombones.

In Y1/2, we have been using our description skills to invent disgusting sandwiches in English. In maths, we have been introducing multiplication and division in year 2 and adding and subtracting in year 1. Our history topic has been the Great Fire of London. What amazing home learning projects the children have produced to support their school learning! In science, we have been exploring habitats around the world. In art, we have been architects and have used junk modelling to create interesting houses. In computing, we have been programming Beebots and we have been giggling at our whole class reading book, "Mr Penguin and the Lost Treasure".



In Reception we have been exploring Space. We have been learning about the planets in our solar system, asteroids and how stars are made. We have watched some videos of Tim Peake on the ISS. We have learned about fiction and non-fiction texts and have been writing fact files about different planets.

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

There has been some fine cross country running with 11 children from Southover representing Lewes in the area finals. We were delighted to have so many athletes qualifying from the Lewes races in November.

The top runners who qualified for these races were: Y5 – Holly, Ellie, Molly & Y6 – Lexi, Iris, Lara, Ivy, Isaac, Zeb, Arlo.

Impressively, four of our Y6 runners (Ivy, Lara, Iris and Lexi) came in as top finishers in the area finals and so go through to the Sussex Finals in Crawley later in the month!

The footballers in Y5/6 have played two rounds of games in the Lewes league although two tournaments have been cancelled due to the weather. In the league 24 children have represented the school playing at the Southdown Club. They have had good fun and learnt to play as a team and help each other out.

The players were: Jacob K, Arlo, Lexi, Jacob W, Ben H, Lenny, Zayne, Sofija, Jack, Alfie, Lucas B, Finley, Isaac B, William, Toby, Bertie, Ben D, Emma, Ivy, Alisa, Lara, Vera, Edie H

## **Cultural Capital**

Our school is registered for the Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show if your child would like to enter. Pupils at Southover have had their work exhibited in the last few years!

Details at <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/> Submissions are open until 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024.



## **Forest School at Southover**

We were delighted to have Forest School provision as part of our school development plan this year and next term it will be Skylark's chance. Each class gets the chance to learn a variety of skills and experiences in the woods on the bank with Andy Miller as the forest school leader and parent/carer volunteers. This opportunity will spread across KS2 over the year and will enable all children to have a

chance to get closer to nature in the learning as they progress through the school. If you are interested in volunteering on a Wednesday and gaining some experience then please let me know.

### **Enrichment Clubs**

Please check out the extensive clubs list we have for the term. Lunchtime clubs run in addition to these and include badminton club for Y3-Y6 and a football club.

Homework Club will be running on Thursdays after school. This is a great opportunity to get it done if working at home is difficult.

### **Looking Ahead...**

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March – more info to come but some start thinking of costumes

Fun Run for PATINA – Saturday 9th March on the Lewes Athletics track

Parent/Carer Consultations – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

INSET Day – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April & Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

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

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.

This week we have been doing internet safety in assemblies. We are reminding children about the importance of being safe online and that every parent should check a child's phone and monitor any online access.

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](mailto:cccc@southover.e-sussex.sch.uk)



A website and directory providing information about support for children and young people (0-25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and their families.



**What you will find on the Local Offer information site**

- » A comprehensive resource to help guide families through learning more about SEND, finding what support is available, and the journey to diagnosis
- » Up-to-date information on services provided by the council for children and young people with SEND, including short breaks and CLASS+
- » Signposting to groups and organisations across East Sussex that offer different services and opportunities



**What you will find on the Local Offer 1Space directory**

- » A range of local and online services, including activities and events, mental health and wellbeing support, schools' SEND and accessibility information, and much more
- » A map highlighting the location of local services, making it easier to find support nearby
- » Easy-to-use filters, so you can narrow down the services to only show those that are most relevant to you

**The East Sussex Local Offer consists of:**

- ➔ an information site that outlines how different SEND processes work: [localoffer.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://localoffer.eastsussex.gov.uk)
- ➔ a SEND-specific directory, listing both local and online services: [1space.eastsussex.gov.uk/localoffer](http://1space.eastsussex.gov.uk/localoffer)



**Share your thoughts with us**

- » We will continue to use feedback to drive changes and improvements, making information and support even clearer.
- » Please send any feedback or queries you have, either on the information website or directory, to: [localoffer@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@eastsussex.gov.uk)



**Find out more at:**  
[localoffer.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://localoffer.eastsussex.gov.uk)



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