

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

Southover CE Primary School

Telephone (01273) 473015

Headteacher: Noel Fadden

www.southoverceprimary.co.uk

Email: office@southover.e-sussex.sch.uk



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 Nov/Dec 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and the Community of Southover,

Already we are nearing the end of term and school is as busy as ever with opportunities to perform and celebrate as well as a busy curriculum. I hope you have noted the Christmas performances and the Christmas Fair. Entrance will be via Potters Lane only and doors will open 10 mins before the performances.

Our termly value is 'Thankfulness' and that has been celebrated in assemblies and classes over the term. We are thankful for how lucky we are compared to others and thankful for the little things in life as I shared the book, The Little Things. We have also focused on Anti-Bullying Week with the theme to "Shout out". Our anti-bullying policy has been recently updated and is on our website – please take a look.



We had our traditional Harvest Festivals in Trinity Church Southover last month and Mrs Short and myself took a large car load of goods to a Lewes foodbank to stock up their harvest for the winter months. Thank you for the donations and for filling the church for the celebrations.

Dr Bike is coming to Southover on 6th December and is open to Years 3 to 6. It is completely free and generously funded by Green United following their sponsored ride in the Summer. All bikes will be checked for safety, lubricated, adjusted and spare parts fitted if necessary and available. All bikes will be left in a better state than they arrived in but it may not be possible to sort out every problem on every bike in the time available. Bikes need to be left unlocked at the start of the day in the Potters Lane bike rack and can be collected at the end. (Thank you to Dr Bike and Green United!)

Library

We are planning to have another pre-school library session on Friday 15th December 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.



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.

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

The Year 5 pupils have immersed themselves into Sir Ernest Shackleton's journey to Antarctica. They each chose a crew member to become and have written diaries about life on board ship and setting up camp after the ship was crushed. In History, they have been learning how the RAF managed to win the Battle of Britain when the odds were stacked against them. In Computing, they have used their knowledge of this turning point in British history to storyboard their own short film about this significant victory. They are currently learning about materials and their properties in Science and are expects in insulation and conductivity! They have used a range of different media in art an experimented with blending techniques and colour washes with some dramatic results. Well done to those how have produced fantastic homework including art, collage, models, posters and written pieces.



Years 5 and 6 impressed us with their creative flair when making Spanish monsters this Autumn. This was part of their project for learning parts of the body. A frightening trio! Year 3 & 4 made pumpkins when they were learning parts of the face! They were all so beautiful and I know many of the children were proud of their efforts in Spanish!



Year 3/4 have enjoyed their Science work on Sound this term. They have explored how sound travels and what happens inside the ear. They especially enjoyed making their own sets of pan pipes to investigate how the length of the pipe altered the pitch of the sound it made.

In year 1 and 2 we have researched, planned and written non-chronological reports about animals. In maths, we have been adding and subtracting. In science, we have been learning about living things and their habitats. We explored our school grounds for microhabitats, spotting animals and the conditions that they live in. We have created artistic compositions from materials found in nature. In geography, we have made messy maps and been focusing on 'birds eye view' mapwork. Year 1 and 2 have been busy exploring the natural world. In art, we went outside to find and collect natural materials to make our own compositions.



In reception we have been practising and developing lots of news skills. We have been learning lots of new poems from Poetry Basket and in Maths we have been exploring the composition of numbers to 5 and looking at 2D shapes and their properties.

We are very lucky to have some new balance bikes and have been practicing gliding and moving safely in and out of cones.



We are getting into the festive spirit writing letters to Father Christmas and baking gingerbread people.

Music

The Friends of the PTA, and an army of volunteers, are busy preparing for the Christmas Fair (3.15-4.30pm Friday 8th Dec). Please reach out to your class reps to find out how you can help with your stall, or sign up here if you can lend a hand setting up or tidying away the fair. You should have received some tickets for the hamper raffle; the PTA will be collecting stubs at the gates in the week of the fair

(and also at the fair itself). Also, if you haven't already, please take a look at the posters about our sponsor-a-piano-key campaign; an £8 donation will pay for one of the piano keys on the school's new electric piano. Thank you!

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 Y5'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.

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

Congratulations to the girl footballers who have had a very successful term finishing second in the East Sussex Albion Cup and then came runners up in the whole of Sussex finals last week. They have another medal and are through to represent Brighton and Hove Albion in the Southern England tournament in the spring. They will be wearing the Brighton & Hove Albion kit as they play against other top schools in the South.

They were excellent on and off the pitch with brilliant camaraderie and superb passing.

The rain has caused two postponements of the Lewes mixed Y5/6 football tournament this term which has been frustrating for the 34 children involved. It will be rescheduled!

Cross Country

We were delighted to have 60 runners take part in a Lewes School cross country race this week. They were super runners who all completed the 2km course (even with the odd shoe getting stuck in the mud). Miss Miller was very proud of their attitude and running ability. Fortunately, Owen got a 1st place medal in Y3 and Nico got a 2nd place medal in Y4. The Y6 girls had a clean sweep of medals with Lexi 1st, Iris 2nd and Lara 3rd and Ivy came in 5th place. The girls were the top Y6 girls team and the Y6 boys all finished strongly as a team to win that too!

Cultural Capital

We will also be having our own special Choir Christmas Show with the Orchestra on Thursday 14th December at 3.30 in the school hall to which family and friends are warmly invited. We will be serving Christmas refreshments after the show so would be grateful for any treats you may be able to bring in on the day (no nuts, sesame or kiwi please). The show will last for less than an hour. You will also be able to catch the choir at the school fair on Friday 8th December.

We were delighted to work with Sussex Downs College drama students to allow them to perform a pantomime to the school last week. Aladdin went down very well with the children and they really got into the panto atmosphere. The students were talented performers and put on a great show.

Enrichment Clubs

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

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

Are you interested in an after school Spanish language club with Josie Eleini, our Spanish teacher?
It would be on a Thursday until 4:15pm.
Please email the office so we can gauge interest

Safeguarding at Southover *we all work together* —children, parents, staff, Trinity Church and the community.

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. Some children in Y6 bring a phone in with them in the morning. These are put away on arrival and are returned as they leave at the end of the day. No child is allowed their phone on when on the school grounds. Children who cannot follow this rule will not be allowed to bring their phone to school. This ensures the safety and wellbeing of all the pupils and staff.

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.

Governors' Update

We would like to start by thanking parents for the responses for coming forward as candidates for the vacancy on our governing board. The process is ongoing, and all parents will be hearing from the school office on how to vote for your preferred candidate in the coming days. The governors have been busy with visits to the school – including at the recent parent/carer evening events, where it was lovely to meet with many of you – and at a range of meetings on school business. We are also looking forward to the brilliant range of Christmas events that are coming up in the coming weeks.

Susi Pollard and Andrew Barnard

Co-chairs of governors

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 Chair of Governors: cccc@southover.e-sussex.sch.uk

