

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 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and the Community of Southover,

We are delighted with the way the majority of children have settled in this term and welcome to the new Southover children who have arrived. We hope you can take full advantage of the wealth of opportunities that arise and that you quickly feel part of the community.

Our termly value is Hope and that has been celebrated in assemblies and classes over the term. We want everyone to feel hopeful for the coming year and to build on this hope. Our Harvest festivals will talk about hope and will practically supporting Lewes Food Banks to provide local families in need. We hope you are able to contribute something and can attend the services in Trinity Church.

We are very lucky to have the FRIENDS PTA who raise money and spirits for the community. Last week we had the AGM and there is a position which needs your support: Chair of the FRIENDS. It needs someone to work with the team of parents and carers to continue to support the school. The chair does not need to be involved in everything and it is a great way to support your school and your child. Please talk to the PTA or to me if you are interested.



We have our traditional Harvest Festivals in Trinity Church Southover on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October: KS1 9:30am and KS2: 2:00pm. Please come along and join in the celebration. We will be collecting for the Lewes Foodbanks to stock up their harvest for the winter months.

The children are rehearsing on Monday morning (KS1 9:15 & KS2 11:00). If you have some time to walk them to and from the church it would help us greatly. Let the office or class teacher know.

### New Library

We are planning to have another pre-school library session on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 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.



### Argus Newspaper Reception Supplement

The photo supplement with the Reception Class photographs will be in The Argus and on sale in all newsagents and supermarkets on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at £1.00 per copy

## 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.

No jewellery in school and no nail polish

A reminder that all children need a PE kit in school (that stays in school). Please ensure your child has their school PE t-shirt and dark shorts as well as footwear for outside. We will send emails home if children don't have the correct kit as we want every child to be able to do PE.

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.

Please remember: no toys/items should be brought into school. They can be go missing and it creates problems which upset children and take up valuable learning time. Please can all smart watches stay at home. Watches are welcome in school but smart watches are too much of a distraction for all children, expensive and have potential access to social media.

## Keeping our children safe Dates to Remember

From now on, please don't line up with your children in the morning. When you arrive, the children should join their line and parents/carers can step back or head off home. This makes it much easier to check the children and enables them to link with friends and head in to school in a calmer manner.

Reception parents and carers should wait with their child at the bottom of the ramp in the mornings and the class teacher or TA will take the children into class.

We are in the process of working with ESCC to bring in changes to the road to make it safer for the children and families but this will not happen quickly. We had a very positive meeting with the local community and whilst the changes and layout are still being finalised, the safety of the children was paramount for all.



Please do not drive if you can possibly walk and if you do drive, park away from the school and walk in.

We do not want an accident to be the driver of change.

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

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

The football team in Y56 played their first matches of the season with two teams against LOGS. There was a great atmosphere for the games and some children represented the school for the first time. It was great to put some of their Monday training into a match setting. We won one game and LOGS won three. Y56 train on Mondays and younger children can join Friday football club.



### **Matilda: The Musical**

I was delighted to get the very last ticket in town to go and see some of our children past and present perform magnificently in the Lewes Operatic Society's production in the town hall. The performances were of West End standard and so enjoyable. Lewes is full of talented people. Congratulations to the team who produced it and to the performers. Bravo! Chloe, Spencer, and Milly shone brightly for Southover present.



### **Forest School at Southover**

We were delighted to have Forest School provision as part of our school development plan this year and it has started with Y6. 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 this term. Lunchtime clubs run in addition to these and include table tennis club for Y3-Y6 and cricket 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 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.



## Click CEOP button

You may have noticed a new 'Click CEOP' on our school website. CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) is a command of the National Crime Agency and is dedicated to tackling the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and young people. CEOP helps children and young people under the age of 18 who have been forced or manipulated into taking part, or are being pressured to take part, in sexual activity of any kind. This can be both online and offline. The CEOP Safety Centre offers information and advice for children and young people, parents and carers and professionals. You can visit the CEOP Safety Centre and make a report directly to CEOP by clicking the Click CEOP button.

Online bullying or other online concerns should not be reported to CEOP. Children should speak to an adult they trust.

## Staffing News

Unfortunately our Family Support Worker, Teresa Paterson, has moved on to a new post over in Hastings. We have been so grateful of her work across all the Lewes schools where she has supported families at home and at school. We are looking as Lewes schools to see how we can fill this role

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

