



September 2016

Dear (insert name of parent)

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) & School Website

At Southway we use eSchools for our on-line learning platform, website and a means of communicating with parents. At the foot of this letter, we have provided your unique secure login which will give you access to the following :

- **Attendance:** View your child's attendance for the current academic year.
- **Letters home:** Access to all current and previous letters sent through the eSchools platform.
- **Calendar / Events:** Keep updated on all school events and events related to your child.
- **Classes:** View your child's class page to keep up to date with what is going on in class.
- **Homework:** View any homework that has been assigned to your child.
- **Settings:** The cog icon in the top right corner will enable you to change your password and even choose your own background theme.

eSchools App

In addition to the learning platform being available through the website, eSchools have recently introduced a new app which will allow us to communicate with parents / carers directly to their phones – including email, text messages and any notifications from the school. It is therefore important that all parents download the app to their mobile devices to obtain access to the most up-to-date communications from school. This will also reduce the costs incurred by the school in sending out text messages. In addition, the mobile app will allow you to view your child's attendance and letters home.

To download the free app search 'eSchools' in either the Apple App Store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android) and use the login details provided below. In order to display alerts from the app on your lock screen please make sure you have selected the correct notification settings on your phone.

We will continue at this stage to send paper copy letters home where signed parental consent is required (for example school trips). We will also continue to send communications via our existing email system for a transitional period until we are confident that parents have logged into their VLE account and downloaded the app.

Parents Evening Booking System

We will be introducing electronic parents evening booking through eSchools for parent consultations in November. We will send you more information about how this works nearer the time. However, it is recommended that you do become familiar with the VLE and app in good time to take advantage of this new system.

Login details

Your individual login details are found below (please keep these safe and secure):

Website address: www.southwayjunior.co.uk

eSchools address (for app): southwayjunior

Username:

Password:

VLE access for children in Year 3/new pupils

Children in Year 3/new pupils will be provided with their secure logins once they have received internet safety training in school (latter part of Autumn term). They will have access to their class page, message boards and blogs.

Thank you for your support in helping us to communicate with you in a more accessible and cost effective manner.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Newbold
Headteacher

Learning and achieving together

